Kilili calls for more United flights to Guam. PAGE 5
Yamamoto may be liable for court costs, fees. PAGE 6

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

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Phone call leads to collision

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A call to a young female driver's cell phone reportedly led to a collision involving a fuel tanker and two other vehicles along Chalan Pale Arnold Road at the Garapan-Gualo Rai boundary Friday afternoon.

The accident, which happened in front of the Saipan Plaza building, triggered heavy traffic for more than two hours in the area and on Beach Road and Quartermaster Road.

See PHONE on Page 4

Emergency medical technicians check the 16-year-old female driver inside a white Hyundai Elantra while a traffic officer interviews the driver of a CTSI fuel tanker during Friday afternoon's vehicular accident that involved two other vehicles along Chalan Pale Arnold Road at the Garapan/Gualo Rai boundary. The teenager, who complained of pain, was reportedly found at fault for attempting to answer a call on her cell phone while driving.

FERDIE DE LA TORRE

IT&E lease extension request OK'd

By ERWIN ENCINARES
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REPORTER

The lease extension request of a private telecommunications company was approved in a joint session at the House chamber on Capital Hill yesterday, with only one opposing it

The lease extension request of 15 years for Pacific Telecom's lots in As Gonno, Chacha, and Garapan finally

See IT&E on Page 4

Both sides of aisle at pot public hearing

By ERWIN ENCINARES
erwin_encinares@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The House committee that held a public hearing on the marijuana legalization bill Tuesday evening at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe generated a fair amount of comments, according to the committee's chairman.

The House Judicial and Govern-

See BOTH on Page 4

NMI veterans' clinic study now law

CHAMBER SCHOLARS
Saipan Chamber of Commerce officials join the six students that are the recipients of their scholarship program in Wednesday's presentation after their general membership meeting at Saipan World Resort's Royal Taga Hall.

JON PEREZ

» Kilili: For best results, vets need to register

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Marianas veterans who are not registered for health benefits with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs need to do so now.

That was the word yesterday from Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP), as President Trump signed the law that mandates a feasibility study for a veterans' health clinic in the Marianas.

The VA has 180 days to complete the study.

"For the study that I put into the VA MISSION Act to prove there is need

See NMI on Page 4

INSIDE

LOCAL
Spain is celebrating the 500th anniversary of Magellan's circumnavigation of Earth in 1521.

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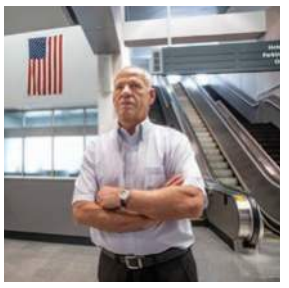
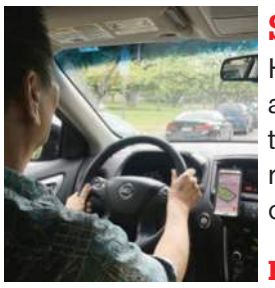


NATION
A U.S. citizen has accused U.S. Customs and Border Protection of keeping his $58,000.

PAGE 24



SCIENCE & TECH
Honolulu leaders approved a measure to limit prices that ride-hailing services charge.

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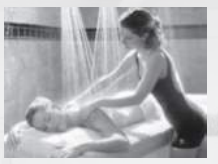
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$2.8M to CUC for long-term disaster resiliency

Gov. Ralph DLG. Torres announced yesterday that $2,812,288 has been awarded to the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. through the CNMI Public Assistance and Hazard Mitigation Office for the long-term resiliency of the islands' power infrastructure against typhoons and natural disasters.

The grant was awarded by the Federal Management Agency following Typhoon Soudelor in 2015. Since then, Torres has directed the CNMI Public Assistance Office to work on hazard mitigation grant applications provided under Section 406 of the Robert T. Stafford Act.

"$2.8 million is the more accurate figure that was awarded to CUC for the upgrade of their power infrastructure so that our community is more resilient for future disasters. Just last week, in addition to the $2.1 million awarded, the administration received $685,801.32 for CUC. It remains a commitment of this administration to continue to upgrade our entire Commonwealth so that we are better prepared for the future," said Virginia Villagomez, the governor's authorized representative.

Torres noted that since the initial recovery phase following Typhoon Soudelor, the Public Assistance and Hazard Mitigation Office has remained consistent in going after additional funding for long-term disaster resiliency.

"Our Public Assistance Office has worked very hard over the last few years to secure more funding for not only CUC, but also for other grants awards under the Stafford Act, which include infrastructure and facilities damaged during Typhoon Soudelor, as well as funding for our existing public

See $2.8M on Next Page

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NMC asks for at least $6M for fiscal year 2019

By ERWIN ENCINARE
erwin_encinares@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Northern Marianas College asked the Legislature Wednesday for a budget of at least $6 million for fiscal year 2019.

Ideally, NMC needs over $9.3 million and that's due to its increased number of enrollees, according to NMC president Dr. Carmen Fernandez.

"I wouldn't be surprised if we got an enrollment of about 1,400 for this fall semester," said Fernandez. "Our enrollment number is increasing and our graduation numbers are increasing, so we need stable funding."

According to NMC numbers, the 2017 fall semester had a total of 1,233 enrollees. The prior fall semester had about 1,200 enrollees.

Fernandez

Fernandez pointed out that NMC produced about 275 graduates at their last graduation.

"It's normally around 200, so that is a really big jump. Fifty new graduates in a year is exceptional performance," she said.

According to House Ways and Means Committee chair Rep. Angel A. Demapan (R-Saipan), NMC said they could work with $7 million.

He added that the CNMI Constitution states that NMC is entitled to 1 percent of total revenue for the fiscal year or $6 million, whichever is greater.

"…That would ease a lot of the operational burden on them," Demapan said.

"I believe the first thing the committee would do is get to the constitutional minimum and then, if there is room to move, try to get as close as we can to what they are requesting for," he said, adding that they still have to look at detailed expenditures, including federal funding, compact impact, tuition, and more.

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres had proposed a budget of a little less than $4.9 million for NMC for the fiscal year.

NMC was appropriated $4.7 million, plus an additional $100,000 for the NMC Board of Regents the previous fiscal year.

"We just need to be able to have this minimum budget to be able to operate, to continue with all of our initiatives and programs, to pay salaries to employees, and so forth," said Fernandez.

$2.8M

From Page 2

facilities to withstand disasters. They are a vital reason why we have over $40 million committed to date for strengthening our Commonwealth's infrastructure. The collaborative work with agencies such as CUC is a reflection of their commitment to protecting our communities on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota for the long-term," Torres added. ***(PR)***

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De Vera, other nurses honored

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Back in 1990, Susan De Vera took a leap of faith—she accepted a job as a nurse on Saipan.

Twenty-eight years later, she's still here, taking care of patients and sustaining a career on island that she never expected would last this long.

De Vera, a medical/surgical ward nurse, along with more than 100 of her colleagues at the Commonwealth Health Center and in the private sector, are taking center stage from June 10 to 16 as the CNMI community honors them during CNMI Nurse Week.

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres declared Nurse Week in a proclamation signing last Wednesday at the Office of the Governor on Capital Hill. Senate President Arnold I. Palacios (R-Saipan) represented the Legislature.

JON PEREZ

Susan De Vera, third from left front, joins Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, fourth from left, Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. chief executive officer Esther Muña, back second right, and some of her colleagues for a group photo after last Wednesday's proclamation signing at the Governor's Office.

Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. chief executive officer Esther L. Muña, CHC hospital administrator Jesse M. Tudela, Northern Marianas College Nursing Department chair Rosa Tudela, nursing instructor Johnny Aldan, Department of Fire and Emergency Services personnel led by Commissioner Clyde Norita, and CHC and private nurses witnessed the proclamation signing.

De Vera recounted that a friend had told her about an agency that would be going to the Philippines to recruit nurses to work in the CNMI. "I applied but I'm not sure where Saipan was back then. I saw on the map like it was only a dot, so I thought maybe it was fake."

A longer version of this story is available at www. saipantribune.com

120th PH Independence Day kicks off this Sunday

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
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REPORTER

One of the most anticipated festivals of the Filipino community will be held this Sunday, June 10.

In celebration of the 120th Philippine Independence Day, the United Filipino Organizations, in collaboration with the office of the Philippine honorary consul to the CNMI, will be hosting the Independence Day festival, *Pistang Pinoy*.

Pistang Pinoy will take place on Sunday, June 10, and will include live entertainment, games, a children's art competition, and more. Food vendors will also be present There will also be vendors for novelty items.

The highlights of the night will be the 2018 singing contest for Filipinos age 50 and above, and the 2018 Dance Showdown Competition.

This year, community members may also avail of free health and vision screening, blood pressure and blood sugar screening, and free haircuts. These services will only be offered during the day segment of *Pistang Pinoy*.

Pistang Pinoy will take place on Sunday, June 10, from 7am to 10pm, at the Marianas Business Plaza. Philippine Independence Day itself will take place on June 12.

According to UFO president Marlon Regaton, the flag-raising ceremony will be held on June 12 instead of the Saturday before *Pistang Pinoy* to honor the actual 120th Philippine Independence Day.

For additional information, visit the UFO Facebook page or contact UFO at 788-9358.

ERRATUM

The story published yesterday, June 7, 2018, that was titled "Docomo Pacific donates $25,000 to CHCC" inadvertently omitted one zero and should have read "$250,000." Our apologies for the omission.

NMI

From Page 1

for a veterans' health clinic in the Marianas, we need every veteran to be signed up with the VA," Sablan said. "The more vets we have, the more likely that the study will justify the cost of a clinic building and full-time VA medical staff to provide service to our veterans."

Improving service for Marianas veterans is an important goal for Sablan and having a clinic is at the top of those services.

The Marianas is the only Pacific jurisdiction without a VA-staffed clinic.

"Our veterans in the Marianas deserve their own Community-Based Outpatient Clinic," Sablan said. "Guam has a CBOC. Hawaii veterans have CBOCs on Kauai, Maui, the Big Island. Even American Samoa has its own Community-Based Outpatient Clinic. And that is what I want for our veterans, too: a full-time, VA-staffed clinic with dedicated healthcare providers."

Sablan has worked on multiple legislative pathways to get the necessary study authorized; and he was successful yesterday.

"When it happened, it happened quickly," Sablan explained. "I was able to put the study mandate into the VA MISSION Act in the Veterans' Affairs Committee on May 8. The House passed the bill on May 16. The Senate followed on May 23. And 14 days later the President signed."

Sablan was also able to include the study mandate in H.R. 4243, the VA Asset and Infrastructure Review Act of 2017, and H.R. 4242, the VA Care in the Community Act. Though introduced by the chairman of the House Veterans' Affairs Committee, neither of those bills passed the House.

"Experience has taught me to be persistent and to have a Plan B… and a Plan C," said Sablan. "That is how to get things done in Congress for the people you work for."

With a 180-day mandate the Department of Veterans Affairs should finish the feasibility study by the end of this year.

"Once the study is done—and assuming we get the result we want—then having the necessary funding approved for our veterans will be at the top of my list, when the next Congress begins in January 2019," Sablan said. ***(PR)***

PHONE

From Page 1

The 16-year-old driver of the white Hyundai Elantra was found at fault in the accident, according to Department of Public Safety spokesperson Jacqueline Rae Shepard yesterday.

Shepard said the teen driver tried to answer a call on her cell phone while driving and that—distracted driving—was determined to be the cause of the accident.

Shepard said the teenager and the driver of a Kia Sportage both complained of pain, but no major injuries were sustained.

The DPS spokesperson said the car mishap occurred last Friday at 5:31pm along Chalan Pale Arnold Road near the corner of Ghiyobw Street.

Shepard said the teenager was driving the Hyundai Elantra north when her cell phone rang. As the teenager attempted to answer the call, the car swerved to the right, hitting a northbound CTSI fuel tanker on the front driver side.

After hitting the truck, the teenager panicked and her car swerved into the inner southbound lane, colliding with a blue Kia Sportage on the right passenger side.

The teenager's Elantra then hit the driver side of a white Toyota Highlander on the outer southbound lane.

IT&E

From Page 1

obtained legislative approval after the House Natural Resources Committee led by Rep. Alice Igitol (R-Saipan) rejected the initial proposal. PTI is the old company name of what is now known as IT&E.

According to the CNMI Constitution, the Legislature may entertain a company's request to extend a public land lease up to 15 years after the initial 25-year maximum term is completed.

PTI's 25-year lease on the three properties is already finished and the company asked the Legislature's permission for a 15-year extension.

Joint Resolution 20-04, which Igitol also introduced, garnered near-unanimous approval.

House members voted 18-1 in support of the resolution while the Senate voted 8-0 in support. Rep. Blas Jonathan "BJ" Attao (Ind-Saipan) and Sen. Justo Quitugua (Ind-Saipan) were absent from the joint session.

Rep. Donald Barcinas (R-Saipan) told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday that he voted against the passage of the resolution because he feels that the CNMI could have gotten more out of the deal.

"I am not satisfied," he said bluntly when asked yesterday. "[I am] not satisfied with the terms of the lease [and] the amounts [the company should pay] for the lease rental. I don't think it is in the best interest for the Northern Marianas descents who own the land," he said, adding that agreement was rushed.

He stated that he wanted "more time" to further review the lease to come up with the better land value and the "best benefit for the people of the Commonwealth."

"I don't believe that there has been [enough] studies on the [value of the lots]," said Barcinas.

Igitol had amended the joint resolution, reflecting the price increase in respect to the appraisal report. Chacha was amended to $8,222 per square meter, As Gonno to $9,720 per square meter, and Garapan to $12,360 per square meter.

A third-party company hired by Pacific Telecom in late May 2018 to appraise the values of the properties had said that the value of the lots in Chacha, As Gonno, and Garapan have all risen, compared to the previous 2015-2016 appraisal.

According to the new appraisal, the Chacha lot increased in value from $75,000 to $137,000 per annum—an increase of $62,000.

The As Gonno lot saw a $57,000-increase, from the 2016 appraisal of $105,000 to the $162,000 per annum appraisal in 2018.

The Garapan lot saw a $22,000-increase, from a 2015 appraisal of $184,000 to the $206,000 per annum appraisal in 2018.

BOTH

From Page 1

mental Operations Committee meeting, led by Rep. Ivan A. Blanco (R-Saipan), hosted the public hearing on Tuesday evening to obtain comments on Sen. Sixto Igisomar's (R-Saipan) Senate Bill 20-62, which seeks to legalize the use of marijuana for recreational and medicinal purposes in the Commonwealth. The bill also proposes to create a commission that will oversee the industry's operation.

"The members [of the committee] and I appreciate all the comments given and all who took the time out of their busy schedules to join [the public hearing]," said Blanco in a statement, adding that the hearing lasted about three hours.

Most of those whom *Saipan Tribune* talked to at the public hearing supported the bill's passage.

"We need a Plan B. We cannot just depend on one industry [tourism]," said Carol Hosono. "[The bill] produces a lot of industrial opportunities for all our people."

Hosono explained that her father, a former Vietnam veteran, used to use hemp oil to combat his cancer when he was still in Washington.

"But then, he wanted to come home. At Stage IV cancer, he was on hemp oil. As soon as he came [back to the CNMI], he deteriorated and died within 10 months," she said.

Another attendee of the public hearing, who asked to be referred to only as Mr. Castro, shared a similar sentiment on the economic potential of the bill.

Castro recounted that, in his recent trip to the U.S. mainland, he found the cannabis dispensaries to be similar to that of a bank.

"…They get your name [and you pay] with cash only. Everything is labeled like alcohol—[those] only 21 years or older can purchase," he said. "It is labeled properly and it is taxed properly. If it goes in that route, then the Legislature should really look into this and fine-tune [the bill]," he added.

Gary Liddle was having none of it, however, saying cannabis use has lasting effects on a person's judgment.

"Our lives are made up of judgment calls, decisions," he said, adding that impaired judgment made under the influence or effects of cannabis usage is something he does not wish for.

Liddle opposed S.B. 20-62 as it is currently written.

"I am not in favor of legalizing marijuana in the [way] that they've looked at it here. I am definitely not in favor of it recreationally and medically. It needs to be qualified by a physician," he added.

Liddle said he understands the issue of pain since he suffers from the long-term effects of polio. He added that he has a daughter who is mentally disabled, so he understands that side as well.

Cannabis is reported to be able to relieve pain and make individuals with certain mental disabilities relax. "I am reticent in just opening the floodgates and allowing even in the community of people with medical needs to simply look at that as a solution to their problem, just as I would refrain them from looking at opiates as a solution to their problem either. …If [a] doctor could add…to the picture, then I think that is a valuable piece of information."

Even though the committee has already voted on the bill, a public hearing is still always good, said House Speaker Rafael Demapan (R-Saipan)

"I spoke with the chairman to make sure that we get as much information from the public through a public hearing," he said.

The bill has already been passed by the CNMI Senate.

Kilili calls for more United flights to Guam

WASHINGTON, D.C.—In a letter to United Airlines chief executive officer Oscar Muñoz, Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) has asked the air carrier to consider increasing the number of flights between Saipan and Guam each day.

Sablan

United began a once-daily flight between the two islands on June 1. Cape Air, which had been providing multiple flights to Rota daily—stopped serving the market on May 31.

"This reduction in service will have a devastating effect on the traveling public," Sablan wrote, citing increased travel times for connecting passengers, costs, and inconvenience.

The new United round-trip flight departs Guam at 7am, leaves Saipan at 8:45am, and lands back on Guam at 9:30am. Sablan noted that passengers connecting to United's flight from Guam to Honolulu, a major route to the U.S. mainland, leaves at 6:40am. So, the new schedule forces Saipan passengers to wait 21 hours in Guam before they can depart for Hawaii.

"Likewise, passengers from Honolulu arrive at 6pm and have to wait overnight in Guam for 13 hours before they can connect for Saipan the next morning," Sablan said.

In lieu of additional flights, Sablan recommended adjustments to the Guam-Saipan-Guam schedule to shorten wait-times.

The Marianas delegate is also thinking about the impact of the new flight arrangements on the island and people of Rota. Cape Air's Saipan-Guam route included a Rota stop-over. United's does not.

"I understand that the Commonwealth government is currently in talks with Cape Air to provide service to Rota. That is an avenue that should be fully explored," he said. "If that effort falls through, however, I will be getting back in touch with United to recommend that they include stopovers on Rota, at least several times a week." ***(PR)***

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EXPLORE YOUR WORLD
IT&E

Yamamoto may be liable for court costs, fees

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The federal court has ruled that if investor Takahisa Yamamoto does not want to seek dismissal of his lawsuit with prejudice over cargo ship M/V *Luta*, it is inclined to set a condition that he will be liable to foot the costs and attorneys' fees of the people he is suing.

Dismissal with prejudice means Yamamoto will no longer be allowed to re-open his lawsuit against Lt. Gov. Victor Hocog, Luta Mermaid LLC, and its officers.

Citing precedent, U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona said that while defense counsel expenses are not a reason to deny a voluntary dismissal motion, the court has discretion to condition the dismissal without prejudice "upon the payment of appropriate costs and attorney fees."

Manglona said "imposition of costs and fees...is not mandatory, however."

The judge said such an award should cover only "attorney fees for work which cannot be used in any future litigation of these claims."

Manglona granted Yamamoto's permission to withdraw no later than June 22 his motion to dismiss without prejudice and resume prosecuting his claims, or to amend it so as to seek dismissal with prejudice.

Dismissal without prejudice means Yamamoto may re-file the lawsuit.

Yamamoto recently notified the court of his intent to drop his lawsuit without prejudice.

Hocog, Luta Mermaid LLC and its officers Abelina T. Mendiola, Deron T. Mendiola, and Fidel S. Mendiola III, do not oppose dismissal without prejudice so long as it is conditioned on payment of their costs and attorneys' fees.

In his reply, Yamamoto, through George L. Hasselback, requests that, if the court sets conditions for a dismissal without prejudice, he be permitted to withdraw his motion or to amend it to seek dismissal with prejudice.

The motion to dismiss hearing was supposed to be yesterday, but Hasselback asked to postone the proceeding because of a death in his family.

In her order Wednesday, Manglona granted Hasselback's request for continuance and rescheduled the hearing to July 19 at 9am.

Manglona said if Yamamoto withdraws the motion to dismiss, she will convert the July 19 setting to a status conference to revise the case management scheduling order.

Manglona said if Yamamoto amends the motion to dismiss to seek dismissal with prejudice, defendants must submit, no later than July 6, a response to the amended motion.

The judge said if Yamamoto does not withdraw or amend the motion to dismiss, defendants must submit, no later than July 6, a bill of costs and fees for work performed.

Luta Mermaid and the Mendiolas, through their counsel William M. Fitzgerald, stated that the court found that the arrest of M/V *Luta* was improper and that Yamamoto did not have probable cause to arrest the vessel, and that the arrest could not stand.

Fitzgerald said his clients spent considerable sums in payment of costs and attorneys' fees to gain release of the vessel and the dismissal of the suit should be conditioned upon an order requiring Yamamoto to pay the costs and fees.

In Yamamoto's reply, Hasselback asserted that his client should not be penalized for seeking a swift resolution to his lawsuit after recognizing that this case cannot proceed and for seeking its dismissal.

Yamamoto is suing Hocog, Luta Mermaid, and its officers for allegedly refusing to pay back the $3.4 million that he put up for the vessel.

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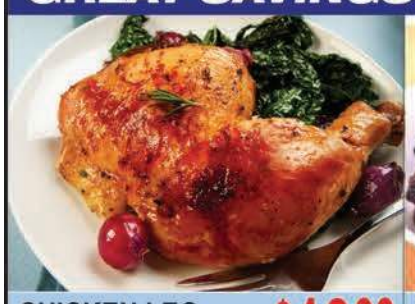

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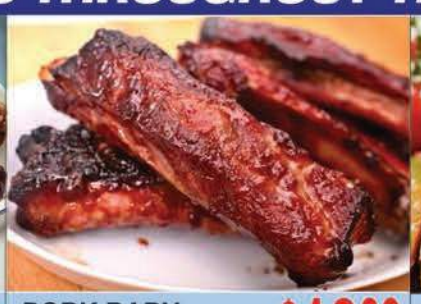
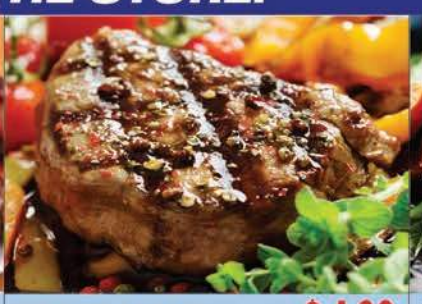


PORK BABY SPARERIBS 10# $18.99



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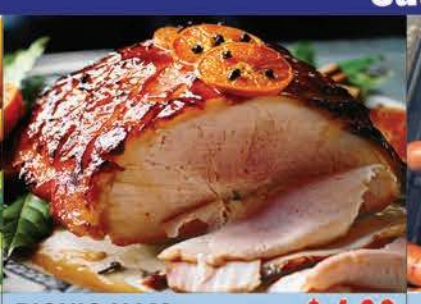

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Man allegedly strangled girlfriend, crashed her car

In a fit of jealousy, a man allegedly strangled his girlfriend inside her car and later crashed her car into a tin fence of a tire shop on Saipan last May 26.

Christopher A. Ayuyu, 26, was arrested in Koblerville Wednesday on charges of assault and battery and disturbing the peace.

A $5,000 cash bail was initially imposed on Ayuyu. He was taken before Superior Court Associate Judge Wesley Bogdan for a hearing Wednesday.

According to police, the alleged victim was crying and appeared hysterical when an officer responded last My 26, with reddening on the lower part of her right eye and right ear.

A police officer was dispatched to Dabao Tire Shop in Chalan Piao at 2:45pm last May 26, where it was reported that a car had hit the establishment's gate and there was a domestic violence in progress.

When the officer arrived, she saw a Mazda 3 car that had a damaged front end; its lower bumper was no longer attached. The officer then met the alleged victim, who was crying inside the tire shop.

The woman complained of pain on her face and stated that Ayuyu hit her face several times.

The victim told police that Ayuyu picked her up using her car at 1:30pm from a relative's house in Chalan Kanoa, drove her to Coral Ocean Point beach side, and parked in the jungle area. The girlfriend said she was asleep in the backseat throughout the whole ride and woke up to Ayuyu hitting her.

Ayuyu was questioning her whereabouts the night before and who was with her. He allegedly started hitting her face with his elbow as then strangled her.

The girlfriend said she almost lost consciousness as she could not breathe. Ayuyu stopped when she kept begging him to stop.

Ayuyu continued hitting her on the face, then drove her to the 999 Market next to the Dabao Tire Shop in Chalan Piao.

As Ayuyu went inside the store, the girlfriend ran to the tire shop and hid in the storage area.

She later heard a loud sound of a car hitting something. She then saw Ayuyu leave the car and shout at her, then walked away from the car. The girlfriend waited for police to arrive. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

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10 SDA students off to senior high

Ten 8th grade students of Saipan Seventh-Day Adventist School were part of the 30 that graduated in a recent commencement ceremony at the school grounds.

Class valedictorian Rannon Palacios and salutatorian Lucy Devey led the 8th graders that will be moving to senior high school, while 11 6th and nine 7th graders were promoted to junior high.

Devey was also part of the Principal's List that included first graders Faith Arriola, Orica George, Maria Guerrero, Zhuxuan He, Nicole Williams, and Thomas Wister; second graders Jessica An, Kurt Diesta, and Lacey Sablan; Gwanhun Son, the lone third grader; fourth graders Chloe Berglund, Mika Camacho, and Kyle Diesta; Gwanpil Son (5th grade), and Annamarie Devey and Bomee Park (6th grade).

Palacios led her 8th grade classmates Cory Lee and Mateo Maldonado on the fourth quarter honor roll that was also given from the first to 7th grades.

Caleb Aldan, Marley Camacho, Karis Han, Jebro Leon, Angelo Li, Sharon Li, Payton Pangelinan, Jason Christopher Sablan, Hao Yang Song, and Cezanne Tero (first grade); Si Yun Ahn, Elin Kim, Cole Kirschenheiter, Taiga Namai-Scoggins, Shylah Pierson, Aubrey Paige White, and Dan Bi Yu (second grade); Ellie Cho, D'Artagnan Enerio, Montrey Germance, Michelle Huang, Minseop Lee, Pete Phair, and Tristan Sablan (third grade); Denis Ahn, Dashaly Buekis, Jia Zhi Li, Jianing Li, Jenna Qiu, Tellei Rechucher, Peter John White (fourth grade); Rigel Devey and Elizabeth Tom (fifth grade); Michelle Chen, Elijah Hofschneider, Xin Jin, Ashley Sablan, and Emily Wister (sixth grade); And Isaac Han, Jia Hui Li, Marielle Lopez, and Kevin Manuel (seventh grade) were the other students on the fourth quarter honor roll. ***(Jon Perez)***

Torres inks appropriation laws

On May 25, 2018, Gov. Ralph DLG. Torres signed into law two local bills that appropriates a total of $3.4 million to various projects on Saipan and Tinian.

House Local Bill 20-64, D1, which allocates $100,000 from the local license fees collected from pachinko and poker machines on Tinian, are appropriated as follows: $74,000 for the Tinian Little League (CNMI District Tournament and Asia-Pacific Tournament in Korea); and $26,000 for professional services of the Tinian Casino Gaming Control Commission.

Offered by the Tinian and Aguiguan Legislative Delegation, this bill becomes Tinian Local Law 20-12.

House Local Bill 20-65, S1, D1, which appropriates $3.3 million from revenues collected from local license fees of pachinko and poker machines on Saipan, are to be expended as follows:

■ $1.72 million to Saipan Higher Education Financial Assistance, provided that $220,000 of the $1.72 million shall be reserved for SHEFA personnel and operations;

■ $30,000 for the Saipan Little League;

■ $84,000 for the Commonwealth Zoning board;

■ $242,000 for the Office of the Mayor of Saipan for its operations;

■ $135,000 for the Office of the Mayor of the Northern Islands for boat charters, operations and maintenance, repairs and renovations of municipal buildings, offices, and capital equipment;

■ $85,000 for the paving and construction of Aluu Drive and road bumps in Esok Avenue in Precinct 1;

■ $50,000 for the renovation and upgrade of the Susupe Manhoben Center in Precinct 2;

■ $75,000 for As Falape Road, Apengagh Street, and Chalan Pale Arnold drainage improvement in Puerto Rico, and $25,000 for Dotse Place for the PVC waterline project in Precinct 3;

■ $50,000 for the upgrade and refurbishing of the basketball courts and for the construction of road bumps in Precinct 4;

■ $50,000 for the upgrade of the basketball court in Kagman 2;

■ $120,000 for the Liberation Day activities;

■ $30,000 for the Annual Flame Tree Arts Festival;

■ $23,000 for the Voices of the CNMI Saipan Chapter for their participation in the 2018 Self Advocacy Being Empowered in Alabama;

■ $5,000 for the Annual Saipan International Fishing Tournament;

■ $96,000 for the Northern Marianas Athletics, for, but not limited to, the 2018 Oceania Micronesian Regional Championship to be hosted on Saipan;

■ $23,000 to defray expenses for the CNMI National Baseball Team for the upcoming Micronesian Games in Yap;

■ $125,000 for the Drug Court for treatment and operations;

■ $100,000 for the Northern Marianas Trades Institute;

■ $32,000 for the Office of Parole for the purchase of vehicle for its operations;

■ $100,000 for the Mariana Islands Nature Alliance for its operations;

■ $100,000 for the Legislative Bureau for the purchase of a generator system and operations;

■ $25,000 for the CNMI Mock Trial Program;

Unanimously passed by the Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation, this bill becomes Saipan Local Law 20-24. ***(PR)***

Chamber presents scholarships to 6

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Six students—four who have just graduated high school and two who are already in college—got $2,000 each from the Saipan Chamber of Commerce as part of its scholarship program.

The Chamber donated a total of $12,000 to recent high school graduates Giu Hur, Elizabeth Jones, Chloe Salvosa, and Monica Usi, and Northern Marianas College students Julliane Bigueras and Nathaniel Snodgrass.

The Chamber received a total of 43 applications. All applicants were for college assistance; no one applied for the vocational program.

Nine senior high school and six college students were shortlisted.

Chamber education committee members—Randy Yates, Ty Pauling, Gloria Madarang, Janel Pangelinan, and Shamika Ratwatte—interviewed the finalists before choosing the six students.

Chamber president Velma Palacios said the checks will be sent directly to their respective educational institutions "after the awardees have confirmed their choice [of college or university] and provide their student numbers to our office."

Snodgrass is currently a sophomore at NMC taking a business degree. He is hoping to further his education at the University of Southern California Marshall School of Business as he aspires to make a career in the CNMI hotel industry.

Bigueras is a 19-year-old sophomore also at NMC taking up an associate degree in Liberal Arts with emphasis in Education. She is hoping to further her education next spring semester.

Hur, a graduate of Saipan International School, is going to take up environmental science at the College of Natural Resources at the University of California-Berkley.

Jones, who was homeschooled, dreams of becoming a doctor and she's going to take up biomedical science at Liberty University in Lynchburg in Virginia. She is hoping to further promote the dangers of betel nut.

Usi, who was Mt. Carmel School's 2018 class salutatorian, wants to become an educator with communications and journalism as her minor degrees.

Salvosa, who was accepted at 12 universities in the U.S. mainland, will be taking up civil engineering after being inspired by one of the engineers from the Federal Emergency Management Agency that helped Saipan after Typhoon Soudelor.

Salvosa recently graduated at the Marianas High School and will be going to Seton Hall in New Jersey.

The Chamber also awarded $500 to Kianna Valencia, who was the Public School System's cooperative education program representative.

The Chamber awarded the scholarships at its monthly membership meeting held last Wednesday at the Saipan World Resort.

Nicole Babauta, Polly Masga, Janel Pangelinan—former recipients of the scholarship—served as guest speakers.

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COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Bill extending Guam's H-2B visa cap exemption OK'd

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Delegate Madeleine Z. Bordallo (D-GU) announced yesterday that the U.S. House of Representatives has passed H.R. 5956, the Northern Mariana Islands U.S. Workforce Act of 2018, which includes language that would extend Guam's exemption from the national H-2B visa caps until 2029. A similar bill, S. 2325, was passed by the Senate on April 23, 2018. Bordallo cosponsored the earlier version of this bill (H.R.4869) and secured similar provisions for Guam in the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2019 (H.R.5515), passed by the House on May 24, 2018. "This [bill] is important to ensure that our local companies have access to H-2B laborers when our local workforce is unable to meet our island's needs. I continue working in Congress to address Guam's labor shortage, including in this year's national defense bill. I look forward to seeing these important pieces of legislation signed into law by the President." ***(PR)***

Scheduled power interruption today

There will be a scheduled power interruption today, June 7, from 9am to 1pm to allow Commonwealth Utilities Corp. linemen to relocate three spans of primary lines and pole hardware to an adjacent location such that existing underground wastewater lines beneath these distribution lines can be accessible for repair. Power service to Chalan Kiya will be affected but not water wells. The W-5 wastewater lift station affecting the Chalan Laulau Middle Road, As Terlaje, San Jose, and Oleai areas will be affected. For more information, contact the CUC Customer Call Center at 664-4282. ***(PR)***

CUC power interruptions tomorrow

There will be a scheduled power interruption tomorrow, June 9, from 5am to 10am affecting San Roque and As Matuis. The As Matuis water well will be affected, as well as all lift stations in As Matuis and San Roque.

There will be another power interruption that same day, from 7am to 11am, affecting the Chalan Antonio Road and Fina Sisu Lane. No water well or wastewater lift station will be affected.

The purpose of the power interruptions is to de-energize the Commonwealth Utilities Corp.'s primary lines to allow CUC and its contractor to safely replace three wooden poles with concrete poles. The project tasks are part of CUC's ongoing Hazard Mitigation Project that entails the replacement of 787 wooden poles with concrete poles throughout Saipan. Of the 787 wooden poles to be replaced, 601 poles have already been made by CUC and its contractor. ***(PR)***

Water outage in As Terlaje, Fina Sisu, As Lito tomorrow

There will be a scheduled water service interruption tomorrow, June 9, from 8am to 5pm in the following areas:

- Rasmu Lane (El Toro), As Terlaje
- Chalan Tun Apa, Fina Sisu
- West side areas of As Lito (Faha Place, Bayak Drive and Aplok Drive)

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp.'s contractor, AIC Marianas Inc., will be eliminating the concrete valve vault, pipe and fittings on the existing 14-inch water distribution main line. After the eliminating process, a new pipe spool will be installed on the main line. Therefore, the water supply will be required to be temporarily terminated to perform the installation. As a result of the new installation, a more reliable water system will be provided to the community. Regular water service hours will resume soon after.

This project is part of the Northern Marianas College 1.0 MG tank replacement project and funded by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. ***(PR)***

Water outage in San Vicente

There will be a scheduled water service interruption on June 13, from 8am to 5pm for the San Vicente area, specifically for customers residing in the following streets: Katupat Drive, Bentana Drive, Laulau Bay Drive, Hotdu Drive, and the lower portion of Katbon Road.

The purpose of the water service interruption is to allow Commonwealth Utilities Corp. personnel to perform repairs and overhauls of old fittings on the existing 4-inch pressure reducing valve. As a result of the replacement and overhaul, a more reliable water system will be provided to the community. Customers in the affected areas should expect restoration of water services soon after.

For more information, contact the CUC Customer Call Center (664-4282). ***(PR)***

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The CNMI WIC (Women, Infants, and Children) Program is now accepting Vendor Applications for the islands of Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.

All interested vendors may pick up an application at the main office located on Upper Navy Hill Building # N-25, beginning June 04, 2018; Monday through Friday from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm, or request for an application via email at fabianu@cnmiwic.org or download an application on CHCC's website at http://chcc.gov.mp/index.php/division-of-public-health/women-infants-and-children-program

Applications must be submitted to the CNMI WIC Program's Administrative Office no later than 4:00 p.m., July 13, 2018.

Prospective applicants are encouraged to carefully read through the information provided to ensure minimum qualifications are met.

Inquiries and technical questions may be directed to the Vendor Management Coordinator, Fabian M. Ulloa at (670) 664-4067, by email at fabianu@cnmiwic.org.

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/s/ **Esther L. Muna**
Chief Executive Office
Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation

/s/ **Eric Angela Camacho**
WIC Program Administrator
CNMI WIC Program

MCS Class of 1990 awards Zheng with $1K scholarship

Mt. Carmel School's Class of 1990 recently awarded a $1,000 scholarship to a graduating senior who won the scholarship by submitting an application that focused on a desire to return from college to give back to the islands.

The AlumKnights presented its second scholarship award to Theresa Zheng at the MCS awards ceremony on May 31, 2018.

In her online application, Zheng aims to become a certified pharmacist.

"I hope to come back to Saipan one day and open up my own pharmacy…[that will] not only create more jobs but also a guidance service for students interested in the pharmacy field."

During her senior year at MCS, Zheng created the MCS ECO Club, which hosted various beach cleanups, collected plastic bottles for recycling, and other beautification efforts.

"The quality of our island will always be an issue that I am passionate about," Zheng said. "I want to be a part of organizations such MINA, so I can give back to the CNMI by working toward the preservation of our islands."

Zheng will attend Northeastern University this fall.

During the award presentation, MCS alumna Donna Flores said the intent of the scholarship program is to support the applicant's goals. "Our interest is the applicant's intent and desire in coming home and helping our islands grow and develop—as most of my fellow classmates are doing now in various capacities within our public and private sectors." ***(PR)***

Members of Mt. Carmel School's Class of 1990 award a $1,000 scholarship to Theresa Zheng on May 31, 2018.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Maritime studies summer field school featured in humanities radio program

Gus Adamson and Dr. Jennifer F. McKinnon, left, with host Catherine R. Perry.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

This Sunday's "Your Humanities Half-Hour" will feature a summer field school now being held on Saipan by the Department of History Program in Maritime Studies at East Carolina University.

Guests will be Dr. Jennifer F. McKinnon, associate professor and director of Graduate Studies, and graduate student Gus Adamson, both of East Carolina State University.

McKinnon and Adamson will talk about the field school currently in session and how it is partnering with the U.S. Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency.

"Your Humanities Half-Hour" radio program is sponsored by the Northern Marianas Humanities Council. It airs each Sunday from 2pm to 2:30pm on Power 99, with host Catherine R. Perry. ***(PR)***

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McDonald's donates $3K for historical preservation

A check for $3000 is donated by McDonald's Guam and Saipan to the NMI Museum yesterday at McDonald's Middle Road branch.
KIMBERLY BAUTISTA

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

McDonald's Saipan made its first donation for the preservation of the islands' rich history through a hefty donation to the CNMI's sole museum.

On Wednesday, McDonald's invited NMI Museum officials and employees to its branch on Middle Road and presented a check worth $3,000 to NMI Museum executive director Danny Aquino.

According to McDonald's Middle Road general manager Joe Ayuyu Jr., McDonald's owes its success to the community.

"It is the community that makes McDonald's successful so this is one of our ways to give back to the community. We want to take care of our customers and serve the community in the different ways we can," he said.

Ayuyu hopes that McDonald's' donation to the preservation of the islands' history will prompt other companies to make the same move.

"Today we are very proud and we are very happy to donate to the museum. We encourage all other businesses to donate also to the museum to help them restore and maintain the facility…I am very happy to hear that there are students visiting and we want to help preserve the culture of the CNMI and to promote it as a tourist attraction," he said.

Aquino said that McDonald's is the first private company to donate monetarily to the restoration of the museum.

"McDonald's is one of the first companies that has donated financially…[and] we're very grateful," he said.

The donation will go to the completion of the ongoing renovation work at the museum.

"We're going to use it toward the continuous upgrades to the building…there is still one more building outside that needs to be [renovated] and as well as our outdoor cultural center," said Aquino.

Aquino hopes the donation will only be the first of many. He said the museum continues to push for more funding to enhance its facilities because it is for the future generation of the CNMI.

"We are going to be reaching out to the business community to help the museum because the museum is underfunded…We believe that is a generous investment for the children and every business that donates. They should take pride in the fact that they're investing in the future of the children of the CNMI," he said.

Woman sentenced to prison for harboring illegal aliens

A female Chinese national was sentenced on June 1, 2018, to eight months in prison for harboring illegal aliens in the CNMI.

Qi Xiufang was also directed to pay a $4,000 fine and a $100 special assessment fee. She will be placed on one year of supervised release and will immediately deported after serving her sentence. The case was handled by Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona.

Qi concealed from detection several illegal workers who had entered Saipan to work at the Best Sunshine hotel and casino construction site on Saipan.

Shawn N. Anderson, U.S. Attorney for the Districts of Guam and the Northern Mariana Islands, said, "Tourists cannot legally work in the United States, including the Northern Mariana Islands. Those entering for such illegal employment are often inexperienced and more susceptible to serious injury on the job. The contractors who employ tourists rarely pay minimum wage or supply the proper safety equipment. This case demonstrates the continuing efforts of the Department of Justice and the Department of Homeland Security in combating the harboring and employment of illegal aliens and those who aid and abet this unlawful activity."

Assistant U.S. attorney James Benedetto prosecuted the case. ***(PR)***

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

INVITATION FOR BIDS
CUC-IFB-18-011

GUALO RAI WATERLINE REPLACEMENT PROJECT

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the Construction of Gualo Rai Waterline Replacement in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The project consists, in general installation of a new main waterline and lateral service line; connection to the existing waterline; installation of gate valve assembly, PRV and PSV, flush hydrants, air release valves, fire hydrant assembly; existing lateral service tap relocation; restoration of existing asphalt concrete road; and other related work. The work shall be done in accordance with the Project Plans and Specifications and without disruption to the daily operation of the water system.

This project is funded by a grant from the United Sates of Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of the approval for project award from USEPA.

CUC requires the Project to be completed in **365 calendar** days from date of award of contract.

Prospective Bidders for this IFB must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $200.00 (non-refundable) for one IFB package set.

A Pre-Bid Conference followed by a Site Visit is scheduled on **June 21, 2018 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No.17, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building.

One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked **"CUC-IFB-18-011, Gualo Rai Water Line Replacement Project",** to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, **no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on July 10, 2018,** at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement the form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission. **Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.**

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract.

A *Bid Guarantee* of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The bid guarantee may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States, Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A *Payment Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent and a *Performance Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidder. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). *Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.*

All bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All questions or request for clarification regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on June 25, 2018** to Mr. Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Officer, via email – manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Mr. Larry Manacop, CUC Water/Wastewater Associate Engineer – via email larry.manacop@cucgov.org and Ms. Christie Sablan, Procurement & Supply, Administrative Support Assistant – via email christie.sablan@cucgov.org

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the best interest of the government. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

GARY CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Officer

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM – OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
Tel: (670) 664-2375 I Fax: (670) 664-2408 I Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATION STATEMENTS
RFQ18-GOV-082

Request for Qualification for Provisions of Architect and Engineering Services 702 CIP Project Management Services

Governor Ralph DLG. Torres and Lt. Governor Victor B. Hocog through the Capital Improvement Program (CIP) Office, (collectively, "**Commonwealth**") are soliciting sealed proposals from Architects and Engineers to provide Project Management Services for designated Federally Funded Projects for FY 2017 – 2019.

Procurement procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, dated May 24, 2001, or latest revision thereof. Public Law 15-95 (Local Preference Act) as amended by Public Law 15-118 does not apply to this Federally funded project. All wage rates for employees performing the work, labor and services on this project shall be paid at the current U.S. prevailing wage rates established for the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI).

Selected Architects and Engineers (Project Managers) will be retained as independent contractors under the General Provision of the Contracting Officer or his designee. Project Managers will act as agents of the expenditure authority on assigned Capital Improvement Projects (CIP) to ensure that identified objectives are achieved within cost, time and legal requirements while maintaining effective stakeholder communications. Selected Project Managers will be retained of a one year contract with an option to renew for an additional year at the discretion of the Commonwealth. Project Managers include Architects, Civil, Mechanical and Electrical Engineers.

Compensation for Project Managers services will be determined based on the number of assigned projects including payments for appoved staff and expenses. The Commonwealth will negotiate with the selected Project Managers to determine the scope of work and responsibilities. Individuals or firms selected as project managers would be precluded from providing any other services associated with the assigned project(s).

Interested parties may pick up the applicable scope of work (SOW) and submittal requirements at the Office of Capital Improvement Program Office, Office of the Governor, Juan A. Sablan Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan, beginning May 29, 2018 during working hours 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. – (Monday through Friday, except on holiday). Submittal of all qualifications must precisely follow the submittal requirements identified in the Scope of Work and Submittal Requirements.

Selection of individuals for the provision of services shall be guided by the Commonwealth Department of Finance Division of Procurement & Supply, Procurement Regulations § 7070-30.3-305. To qualify, firms must have a valid CNMI Business License, and be currently licensed to practice engineering in the CNMI, and must hold a Certificate of Authorization, if applicable.
Fee estimates will assist the CIP Office for budgeting purposes, but will not be considered in the Firm evaluation scores.

Statements of qualification must be presented by a combination of both brochures and the use of current U.S. Government Standard Form 330 or the latest version of Standard Forms. Only professionally licensed firms with a valid CNMI business license will be considered. Statement of Qualifications will be evaluated and scored based on the following criteria:

1. Past Experience and Performance as a Project Manager – 70%
2. Interview – 30%

Discussions shall be conducted with the top three (3) ranked firms or with all the firms. After a selection is made, negotiations will be conducted with the highest qualified firm to determine the final fair and reasonable price of the contract for the work to be performed. The selected firm will be subjected to a responsibility and responsiveness determination in compliance with Section 3-301 of the CNMI Procurement Regulations.

Qualifications statements must be sealed and marked "RFQ18-GOV-082", **Project Management Services for the 702 CIP Projects**". For proposers within the CNMI, one original and five (5) copies of the qualifications statement must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP, **no later than 9:00 a.m., on June 29, 2018**. Proposers located outside the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their proposal by submitting a Notice of Intent to Propose. Notices of Intent to Propose must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply **no later than 9:00 a.m., ChST, on June 29, 2018** and may be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@cmnidof.net. For proposers located outside the CNMI, one original and five (5) copies of the sealed qualifications statement must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than June 29, 2018, and must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply **no later than 9:00 a.m.,ChST on July 10, 2018**. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies of the proposal may be cause for rejection of a proposal.

The Commonwealth reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and to waive any imperfections in any proposal if, in its opinion to do so would be in the best interests of the CNMI government. All proposals shall become the sole property of the CNMI government.

Victor B. Hocog
CNMI, Acting Governor

Herman S. Sablan
Director, Procurement & Supply

Oceanographic instruments are deployed in Majuro

MAJURO, Republic of Marshall Islands—A team from the Pacific Community—formerly known as the Secretariat of the Pacific Community—is deploying oceanographic instruments along the lagoon and ocean shoreline in numerous locations throughout Majuro atoll.

The instruments will record wave data in the area over the next 12 months to better prepare the atoll for the impacts of climate change.

The SPC team is being supported by technical staff from the Republic of Marshall Islands Environmental Protection Authority.

The deployment is a key milestone in SPC's Integrated Coastal Risk Management Project, which is part of the World Bank-funded Pacific Resilience Project Phase II.

Moriana Phillip, general manager of the RMI EPA, said the collected data will be valuable to EPA officers and other government agencies. "More importantly, it will directly benefit the coastal residents in Majuro. As we monitor shoreline changes, and anticipate rising sea level and growing demand for coastal and property protection, this information will help to better predict coastal flooding, and strengthen coastal resilience."

Waves are one of the main contributors to coastal flooding in low-lying island environments. Tropical cyclones, large swells generated by far away storms, seasonal weather patterns, and inter-annual weather phenomenon such as the El Niño Southern Oscillation all contribute to regional wave patterns.

SPC's oceanographer, Dr. Moritz Wandres, noted the importance of field data collection. "We have numerical models [that] give us a sense of what we think is happening, but with accurate observations we can validate our models and provide more accurate data for decision making in coastal risk management."

Grant Bilyard, who is working as the PREP II advisor for the Marshall Islands Ministry of Works, Infrastructure and Utilities, echoed this. "Studies like these are crucial for the proper design of coastal structures. This project will increase the understanding of current and future coastal risk and help the government prioritize future investments, and deliver targeted coastal protection investments."

The primary challenge faced by the project are the waves and currents being studied. Instruments need to be installed in areas exposed to large waves and strong currents such as the shipping channel and the northeast of Djarrit. In these areas, the current is too strong for recreational diving. The local expertise and resources of RMI EPA are essential to ensure the deployment is done safely and efficiently.

PREP II was scheduled to be officially launched last Tuesday, June 5; however, technical work has already begun. A second team of SPC ocean experts is currently installing temporary tide gauges at the Majuro Uliga wharf. The team is also establishing georeferenced benchmarks and a tide datum with support of the Marshall Islands Lands and Survey Department.

"Most places in the Pacific are referenced to a local chart datum which makes it hard to work with on a global system. We need to first establish benchmarks that can be linked to an international reference system," said Salesh Kumar, hydrographic surveyor at SPC.

Tony Mellen, PREP II project manager at the Marshall Islands Ministry of Finance, believes that the project will make a significant impact in RMI by building the capacity of government agencies to adapt to climate change, reducing disaster risk, and identifying priorities for investment.

"With PREP II we are aiming at improving early warning systems and reducing risk of climate change effects and coastal hazards through smart investments in shoreline protection," said Mellen. "Communities exposed to erosion, cyclones, storm surges, king tides, and sea level rise, will benefit from the project through reduced risk of damage to infrastructure in the coastal zone, as a result the Marshall Islands population and general economy will benefit from the project."

Fieldwork took place in Majuro. ***(PR)***

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT

Happy 50th birthday to our dear Irma de la Rosa! we wish you all the best in life. Keep being healthy and more birthdays to come. Greetings come from the staff and management of Sun Palace Hotel and Makeover Beauty Salon.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

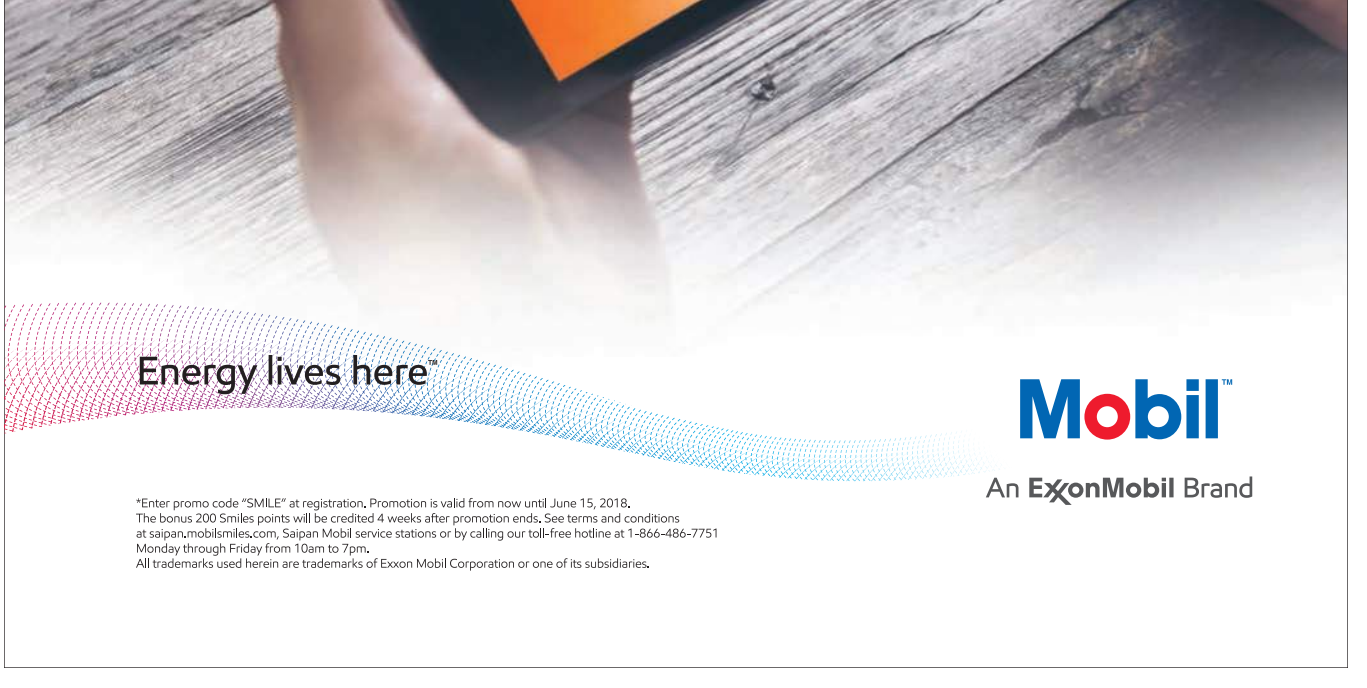
Free summer program at public library

This summer, the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library will be hosting its 2nd annual collaborative summer library institute for teens and adults. The theme for this year's program is "Libraries Rock!" and celebrates a love of reading as well as music-related books and events.

Summer reading programs are a great way to encourage literacy during the summer, a time during which academics may be lower priority. By encouraging students to read on their break, summer slide (a phenomenon in which some students may lose some of the gains they achieved in the previous school year) can be prevented. Summer reading is also a great way to allow both teens and adults to meet new people, participate in reading challenges and attend library-hosted events.

All teens and adults are encouraged to take part in this free program. Registration is open. Patrons ages 13 and up are invited to the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library to register onsite and pick up a reading log. All participants must have a library card free of fines. Registration runs from 10:30am to 5:30pm Tuesday-Fridays, and from 9:30am to 3:30pm on Saturdays. To register, see Emily at the front desk.

There will be a host of events such as movie days, cooking classes, writing workshops, musical performances, fitness classes, language classes, book clubs, and crafts. Teens will also have the opportunity to participate in a book club. Last day to submit reading logs is July 25, 2018. ***(PR)***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Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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EDITORIAL

Remember hurricane-ravaged Puerto Rico

The monthslong uncertainty surrounding the death toll from Hurricane Maria highlights the confounding limitations of using fatalities to gauge the true impact of a disaster.

Even if the death count in Puerto Rico had in fact stood at 64, the early estimate put out by the Puerto Rican government, that number would say nothing about the prolonged suffering of the hundreds of thousands of U.S. citizens who were left without electricity for months after the hurricane. Or about those who struggled to access medical care and clean water long after the storm subsided.

Still, many people were rightfully stunned by survey results published last week in the New England Journal of Medicine that found the Sept. 20 storm's death toll could be 70 times the official estimate.

Anywhere between 793 and 8,498 people may have died in the hurricane and its aftermath, with the midpoint estimated at 4,645 possible deaths, according to the team led by Harvard researchers. Among the households surveyed, one-third of the deaths reported were attributed to delays in accessing medical care after the storm.

On Friday, Puerto Rican health officials released new data showing that 1,397 additional deaths occurred on the island in the months after Hurricane Maria than in the same period the previous year.

That astonishing figure approaches the 1,833 people who died after Hurricane Katrina in 2005. This harsh reality belies President Donald Trump's early suggestion that Hurricane Maria did not rival Katrina in terms of qualifying as "a real catastrophe."

A low death toll would not have excused the U.S. government's slow response to the disaster, which engulfed the U.S. territory that is home to 3.4 million Americans.

As the storm neared the island, federal officials should have known Puerto Rico would need more assistance, not less, due to its combination of local government debt and pre-existing infrastructure gaps. Yet Trump blamed Puerto Rican officials for the delays and suffering their people endured after the storm.

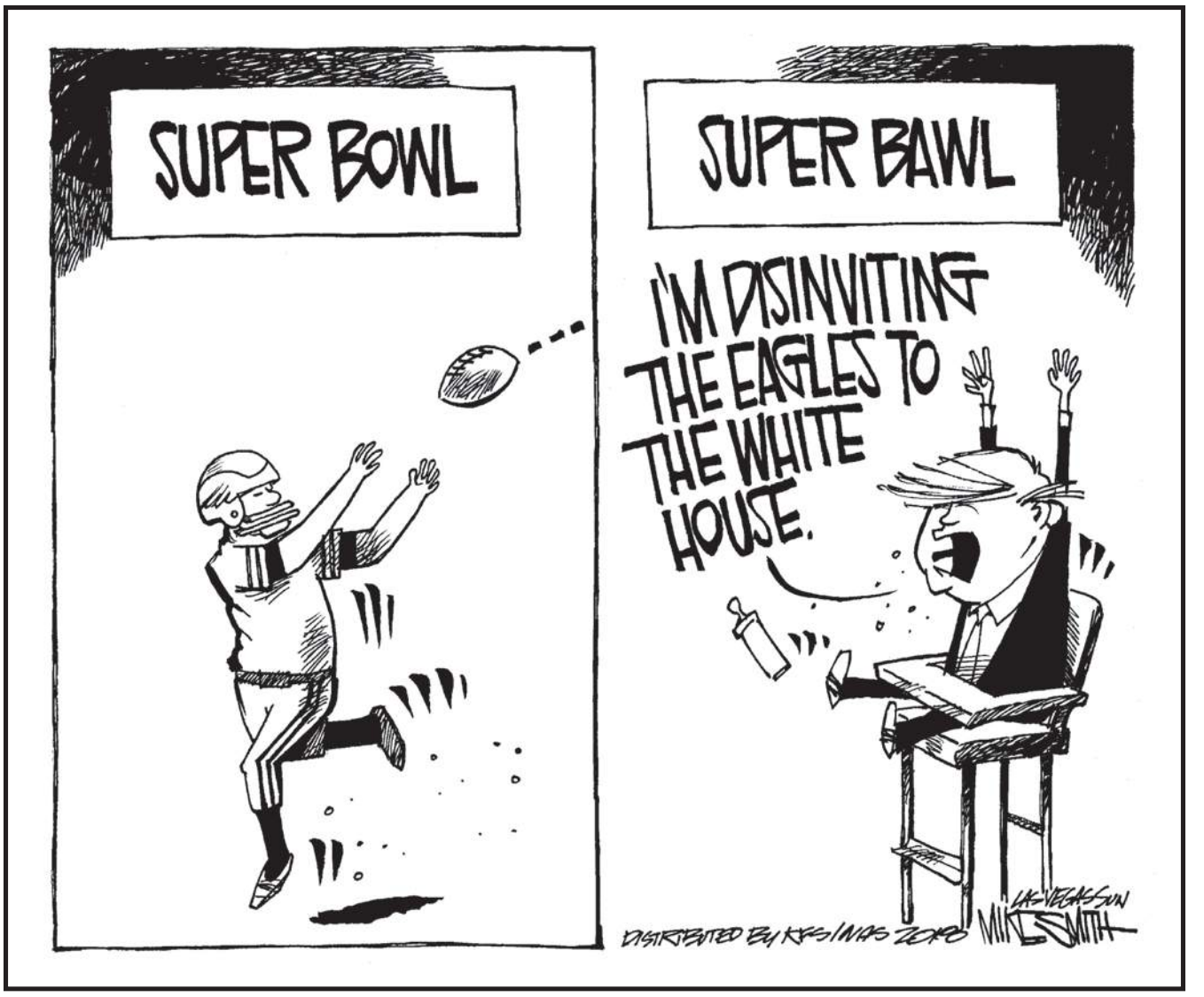
Local government missteps, including a questionable electrical-repair contract, certainly did not help. But the deeper question remains why an island populated with millions of U.S. citizens had such substandard infrastructure in the first place—and what the U.S. government plans to do about it now.

Hurricane season is descending once again on the Caribbean, while Puerto Rico is still struggling to recover.

Members of Congress must focus on directing aid to Puerto Rico to prepare it for another potentially damaging season of storms. Congress should also hold hearings on the adequacy of the federal response and whether more could have been done to prevent unnecessary deaths.

Whether Hurricane Maria killed a few dozen Americans or 4,600 after it slammed into Puerto Rico last year, the U.S. government's inefficient response should go down in history as shameful episode that must not be repeated.

(c)2018 *The Seattle Times*



Loneliness—seeing a party through a window

By GINA BARRECA
The Hartford Courant

Gina Barreca is a board of trustees distinguished professor of English literature at University of Connecticut and the author of 10 books. She can be reached at www.ginabarreca.com.

When you're lonely, you feel like all the good lives are taken.

When there's an invisible and impenetrable distance between you and the world, that's loneliness. The world might appear inviting, but you've been left off the guest list.

And, yes, I'm the humor lady writing this. A lot of people who consider themselves part of the humor tribe have been, in fact, profoundly lonely at some point in their lives.

But then again, I think most people have been profoundly lonely.

Oddly enough, it's something we don't talk about often unless we're talking about quick fixes for it, as if loneliness were a broken fingernail or a dented fender.

As my colleague and friend at UConn's School of Nursing, Thomas Lawrence Long, put it, "Loneliness has been my constant pale companion—and I'm an extrovert." Tom is adapting a line from Shakespeare's comedy, "A Midsummer Night's Dream," in which one character tries to banish the "pale companion" of melancholy from a celebration. I think the image works.

Loneliness saturated my childhood and seeped into my early 30s. I was abjectly and achingly lonely as a child; it was always worse at dusk and on the weekends.

In retrospect, I realize that my mother was clinically depressed. During her short life, she felt exiled inside my father's large family, separated by a different language and living thousands of miles from her people. She died when I was 16 and was ill for several years before that. My predominant images of her are of a small, soft woman with lank hair, wearing a plaid house dress, chain smoking and drinking tea while staring out the kitchen window.

Because she was isolated, she spoke to my brother and me about subjects we had no business understanding. She gave my brother books by Dostoevsky when he was 12, and for my 13th birthday she gave me a novel about a home for unwed mothers. She had a sister who'd gotten pregnant at 15 and had to give the baby up for adoption. My mother was sexually abused by family members as a girl.

If my childhood wasn't exactly cheerful, hers had been a battleground and I was aware from my earliest years that I had no right to complain about any of my own frivolous problems. If I was worried about not having friends or feeling sorry for myself, I took it to my room and wrote in my notebooks. I started writing in them when I was 8, but my mom, discovering the notebooks and not liking what she read, threw them away when I was 15. That, too, was a lonely moment.

Of course, I now understand her unrelenting sense of isolation from the world was based on the terrors of her early life. She lacked the ability to create a home with a sense of safety and my father worked all the time.

You learn to protect yourself as a kid in order to survive, but when you become expert at creating your own emotional shelter you also become wary. You become suspicious.

Doubting even the kindest offers of emotional generosity from others, you put yourself into a kind of self-storage. Then you keep changing the locks and the passcodes on your inner life so that it becomes difficult for those closest to you to have access to anything that matters and, at a certain point, you become secluded even from yourself.

I know many people who, through death or divorce, through alcoholism or chronic illness, lost one or more of their parents when they were young, and this builds—unwittingly—a deep foundation for loneliness in later life.

Such foundations, I discovered, must be dismantled, and not just buried. They have to be excavated and reassembled into an entirely different structure to build a life that's strong, stable and that provides exits and entrances so that other people can become of your world.

Choosing solitude, as we all know, can be heaven; being alone is not the same as loneliness.

But let's be honest: Being lonely can be hell. Yet loneliness is a fragile hell, one that goes up in smoke when somebody sees us, recognizes us and welcomes us. Send a note. Pick up the phone. Wave hello. Take someone's hand, banish the pale companion.

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Stress and chips

By ED STEPHENS
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Visit Ed Stephens Jr. at EdStephensJr.com. All views expressed by the author are his/her own and do not necessarily reflect the opinion and stance of the Saipan Tribune.

You know the world has set its tracks in a circle when the news warns you about the health risks of, yes, following the news. The gist is that too much newsiness can stress you out. If you have too much stress you'll blow a gasket. And that's never a good thing, especially if you need to get your head resurfaced.

I have a couple of examples of the news about news thing, courtesy of some June headlines.

"Too much bad news can make you sick," said a June 1 CNN story.

"Almost seven-in-10 Americans have news fatigue," said a June 5 report from the Pew Research Center, which slices and dices the phenomenon into various demographic categories.

It's not a new theme. In February of last year, Bloomberg's website ran an article titled "How to Stay Sane in a World of Crazy News."

Me, I'm trying to stay sane in a world where some headlines don't put words in caps, But Other Headlines Do.

Anyway, much of this news-and-stress gig is a subset of today's broader addiction to electronic media. In that case, I'd say the medium is the madness. But that's not my topic today.

My topic concerns the environment of contention, the tone of news that flows from it, and the effect that it can have on people

The news-and-stress thing certainly pre-dated smartphones and social media. I remember hearing from a *Saipan Tribune* reader about 18 years ago; he joked that even a glance at the local papers made him want to get some Prozac. This guy was no sensitive milquetoast, by the way. He was a seasoned and unsentimental attorney. He's long gone from Saipan now.

His concern wasn't about how the news was being reported. His concern was about the overall nature of the patronage system and the never-ending stream of contention and intrigues that flowed from it. It's probably the fountainhead of the majority of local news stories, one way or the other, directly or indirectly. Don't overlook the indirect angles, by the way; these second-order effects are usually bigger and longer-lived than the more direct facets.

Anyway, one day, a long time ago, I was having an after-work bowl of chips. About a dozen other Saipan professionals were doing the same thing at the same place. It was shaping up to be a nice evening—not too hot, and the humidity seemed lower, if just slightly, than normal.

It was another day in paradise. There was a lively buzz of murmuring as jokes were told, beers were ordered, and cigarettes were offered.

Then, suddenly, the place fell silent.

What happened?

The news happened.

Although I hadn't even noticed it up until that point, a TV was on. As soon as the music announcing the local news show was audible, the entire place fell silent. With one exception, everyone's eyes went to the screen. I happened to be the exception. My eyes, for some reason, happened to look at the array of faces that had fallen silent so quickly. Every single face wore a look of strain and mild dread. The faces soon resumed their normal expressions. However, my brief, 2-second look at their initial reactions was an image that I'll never forget.

There wasn't anything particularly remarkable in the news, nor was anything remarkable expected. It was just the same old stuff and the same old contentions. People winced when they knew they were in for another dose of it.

Saipan was ahead of the mainland in this regard. Many, if not most, of the professionals on Saipan have learned how to deal with such an environment. In general, they are aware of the basic principles (and principals) at work, but they don't get caught up in the drama.

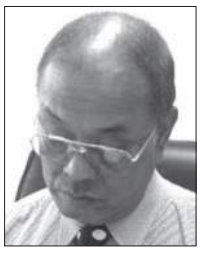
My mainland friends, by contrast, were late to the game, but they got there after the mainland itself got so contentious. They have drawn their conclusions about how human nature works (this is probably a rite of middle age), so they don't need to be saturated in constant examples of the process. Meanwhile, there is a profound paradox of literacy at work: Those who hold the written word in the highest esteem have also been the ones who have cut back the most on their media consumption.

And it's in the shade of that paradox where I put my beach chair. I'm still happy to write about things that are worth appreciating and things that are worth pondering. Outside of that, though, I'll let the world argue with itself. Just keep those arguments away from my chair, please, so the rest of us can pass around the chips.

Respect your host

By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.
Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune *and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands. All views expressed by the author are his/her own and do not necessarily reflect the opinion and stance of the* Saipan Tribune.



Walking home after class in the late '60s, I'd see huge buses heading north from the old airport. The three busloads piqued my curiosity. Actually, it was the beginning of the tourism industry here.

This typically depicts how investments have come to the islands, none of which was from a fully thought-out plan. It started from well-meaning friends from the Land of the Rising Sun and other Asian countries.

Troubling how we still don't see the need for a plan of our own. It must be indigenous! Troubling? How so, sir?

Anyway, one of the buses had a group of Japanese that have returned to see the place of their birth and home before the war. Indeed, it must be one heartwarming sentimental journey home.

An embryonic economy started evolving, including other investments that gravitated to the islands, perhaps because of its proximity to Japan and Asia. The combined investments allowed the NMI to collect sufficient revenue to supplement basic public services in health, education and public safety, among others.

Sandwiched: Since birth, I've lived under the umbrella of indigenous culture comprised of local tradition and religion. It emphasizes respect and sharing that focuses on the whole family or community over the individual.

While the indigenous people may have adopted some impositions from colonial powers, they have held on to respect and sharing as the holy grail of cultural strength.

Colonial rulers must have been puzzled by their own foggy view of our contentment. I'm sure too that they must have come up with boatloads of condescending names for the indigenous people like "basura," "wegwerfen", etc.

Our life of "contentment" focuses on community that de-emphasizes the individual. It's a natural cultural demeanor in island communities that must be rooted in the notion that we come from small islands.

Moreover, we've never bothered anybody nor did we invade another country for our needs. Ours are on the tiny land and vast ocean around us. We take care of today's needs right here and now and take care of tomorrow's at the next break of dawn. This was and still is our way of life!

So don't be surprised by "our ways" or, better yet, put your standard in your locker until your return home. Respect the ways of your host!

Contraction: Later, though, the clothing industry was shuttered and Nippon investments headed to jet ways, leaving a huge revenue gap beyond our wildest imaginings. There's nothing in our books that could cushion the degenerative financial effects of investment losses. Shows the ultra-fragility of an island economy hardly the beneficiary of realistic planning.

It's a troubling shift in the entry and exit of exogenous investments that simply left behind a bankrupt NMI. It was one heavy and difficult experience. Yet the elected elite is grandly oblivious to the need for thoughtful planning. It's *ke sera* in perpetuity! Really?

The troubling query is: what's the root cause of investors walking to jet ways with their luggage? Did we offend them so egregiously?

I quietly probed it, only to find out that it is in the adolescent attitudes of shallows among the elected elite, clueless of it all. In the process they ruined the quality of life of the very people they represent in our governmental institutions. Despicably disgusting and humiliating!

Obviously, stability rides high on mature leadership. Unfortunately, it's as scarce as good local mango. How timely the call, "Wake up, Marianas!"

Sacrifice: Many of the investments that found "home" here since the late '60s are family-owned businesses built steadily through the years in the old country. They took the risk to see if expanding in the NMI would grant both side reciprocal benefits.

They endured both good and bad times, optimistic that something would break for the better. Difficult times came and they stuck it out.

The idea using genealogy to rob exogenous investors of their lifetime sacrifice is despicably humiliating and definitely illegal! Whatever happened to cultural values? Is this a modern business model that I didn't find in my leisure book, *Super Freakonomics*?

Remember when we snubbed Nippon investments in recent past? Didn't we lose over $7 billion in revenue that used to be recycled in the local economy? Do you wish to repeat the same dumb arrogance and ignorance against your own people?

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Curbing corruption

A recent bill introduced by Senate President Arnold Palacios aiming at controlling corruption with the casino industry is commendable and refreshing because this was not heralded as a concern before the formative period of the idea.

No one argues that transparency in business and government and fair disclosure of information is important to satisfy the public interest. Mr. Palacios seems to acknowledge that transparency is good. It makes real the expectation that an organization's actions should be scrupulous enough to withstand public scrutiny. Foremost to the desire of keeping a clean hand over the affairs of the licensed casino is a virtue, and it is forceful in government policy to protect the interest of the public by ensuring the integrity of legalized gaming. Holding public officials accountable and fighting corruption is an honorable intention for the good of the Commonwealth.

Following the money trail is the most effective way to curb corruption. Even thieves slip through the pit because they fail to keep good account of their loot. Government, semi-government, profit, non-profit, churches and even personal finances are all subject to accountability and transparency. Numbers do not lie.

Start with the casino licensee. We need to know outcomes.

From the reporting result it should be elementary paper trail by the winnings per day, week, and year-to-date. These should be good enough for public scrutiny.

For the CCC financial disclosure, it should be paramount that what must appear in the disclosure requires the assessment fee it receives from the casino licensee and the accounting trail it produced and recorded on the flow and uses of funds.

The financial disclosure of actual financial results should *chenchulu* corruption and ensure the fair remittance of taxes due from the casino licensee. The intent of the law can take account of this proposed disclosure suggestion.

Mr. Palacios should wise-up enough to see that this is a measure that meets corruption at its core or before it forms its cancerous cells. When this is inserted as a policy, I for one will be a happy camper.

It makes sense to be truthful, and this is the way to level the playing field, don't you agree?

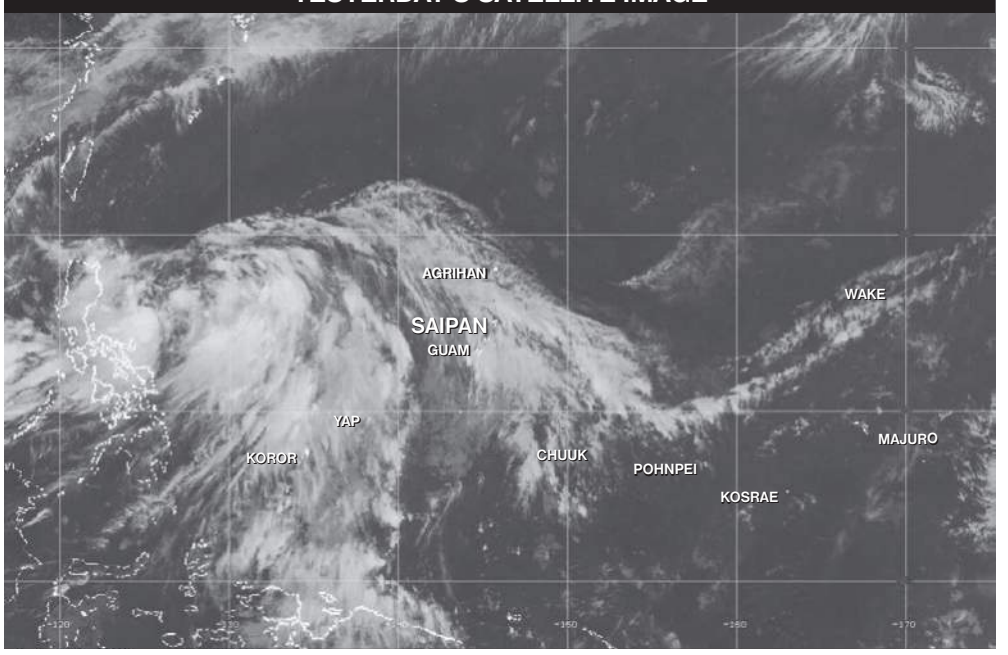
Francisco R. Agulto
Kannat Tabla, Saipan

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms. Southeast winds 5 to 10 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms. Southeast winds 5 to 10 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲87° ▼78°	▲87° ▼78°	▲88° ▼78°	▲88° ▼78°	▲88° ▼78°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 7:09 AM, THURSDAY, JUNE 7, 2018
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A monsoon circulation continues to slowly move northwestward and is currently centered near 13N129E. Showers and thunderstorms are present across the Philippine Sea up to 140E, then another northwest-to-southeast band of showers is seen across the CNMI, extending to the southeast of Guam. Latest surface analysis shows the monsoon trough passing through the Marianas, thus southwest winds over Guam and southeast winds over Saipan.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA		▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorm	87° / 79°
Palau	Thunderstorm	86° / 79°
Yap	Partly Cloudy	88° / 81°
Chuuk	Thunderstorm	85° / 81°
Pohnpei	Thunderstorm	86° / 77°
Kosrae	Thunderstorm	86° / 77°
Majuro	Thunderstorm	84° / 80°

AROUND THE GLOBE		▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Mostly Sunny	61° / 48°
Beijing	Partly Cloudy	88° / 64°
Hong Kong	Thunderstorm	90° / 82°
Honolulu	Showers	85° / 75°
London	Thunderstorm	73° / 55°
Los Angeles	Sunny	79° / 62°
Manila	Thunderstorm	84° / 81°
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	57° / 43°
Miami	Thunderstorm	84° / 78°
New York	Mostly Sunny	86° / 70°
Osaka	Showers	82° / 72°
Paris	Thunderstorm	81° / 63°
Busan	Partly Cloudy	75° / 66°
Rome	Thunderstorm	75° / 63°
Salem	Sunny	92° / 69°
San Francisco	Windy	63° / 53°
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	88° / 64°
Tokyo	Thunderstorm	84° / 68°
Washington, DC	Mostly Cloudy	84° / 69°

NMI CRIME STOPPERS
Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:
- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
2:59 AM	HIGH TIDE	1.87
9:41 AM	LOW TIDE	0.77
2:52 PM	HIGH TIDE	1.35
8:54 PM	LOW TIDE	0.54

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	5:45 AM	6:46 PM
Saturday	5:46 AM	6:46 PM
Sunday	5:46 AM	6:46 PM
Monday	5:46 AM	6:46 PM
Tuesday	5:46 AM	6:47 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	1:13 AM	1:26 PM	-
Saturday	1:53 AM	2:17 PM	-
Sunday	2:35 AM	3:11 PM	-
Monday	3:19 AM	4:07 PM	-
Tuesday	4:07 AM	5:07 PM	-

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E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JUNE 6, 2018

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA117	8:45am	9:30am	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

7C3451	3:10am	6:10am	1, 7
7C3451	4:00am	7:05am	4, 5

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

TW308	2:00am	6:05am	Daily
OZ626	2:10am	6:00am	1
OZ626	2:50am	6:40am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
LJ652	3:40am	7:30am	1, 4, 5, 7
7C3403	4:45am	8:30am	Daily
7C3401	4:00pm	7:45pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	5:40am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-HANGZHOU (HGH)

JD396	7:30am	12:00pm	1
JD396	4:50pm	10:00pm	4

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

MU764	1:30am	6:35am	3, 5, 7

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ626/701	2:10am	10:55am	1 via ICN
OZ626/701	2:50am	10:55am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA6394/191	4:15am	9:00am	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
UA6394/PR111	4:15am	8:10am	7 via GUM
UA6394/PR111	4:15am	9:20am	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via GUM
UA6398/183	6:05pm	9:40pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA6398/183	6:05pm	9:50pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA6398/193	6:05pm	11:50pm	2, 5 via GUM-ROR

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

HX077	1:50am	5:15am	1, 4
OZ626/721	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UO43	5:45am	8:40am	1, 3, 5, 7
UA6398/159	6:05pm	11:00pm	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA117	7:00am	7:45am	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

7C3452	9:00pm	2:10am+1	4
7C3452	9:05pm	2:10am+1	3, 6, 7

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3402	9:30am	3:00pm	Daily
OZ625	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
TW307	7:45pm	1:00am+1	Daily
OZ625	8:20pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
LJ651	9:10pm	2:40am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
7C3404	10:10pm	3:40am+1	Daily

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:20pm	4:30am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

HANGZHOU (HGH)-SAIPAN

JD395	8:25am	3:30pm	4
JD395	9:55pm	5:00am+1	7

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

MU763	4:25pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA182/6395	12:40am	8:05am	3, 6 via GUM
UA190/6397	9:55am	5:35pm	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ702/625	12:25pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/625	12:25pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
PR110/UA6395	10:05pm	8:05am+1	Daily via GUM
UA192/6395	10:30pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via ROR-GUM
UA184/6395	10:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
HX076	5:15pm	12:15am+1	3, 7
UO42	6:50pm	1:45am+1	7
UO42	9:30pm	4:25am+1	2, 4, 6
UA116/6395	11:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U Sichuan Airlines, 7C Jeju Air, DL Delta Airlines, JD Beijing Capital, UO HK Express, HX HongKong Airlines, LJ Jin Air, MU China Eastern, OZ Asiana Airlines, TW t'way Air, UA United Airlines, PR PAL Express; ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The* Saipan Tribune *is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1301	7:30AM	8:00AM	Daily
1302	11:30AM	12:00PM	Daily
1303	4:00PM	4:30PM	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3101	8:15AM	8:45AM	Daily
3102	1:45PM	2:15PM	Daily
3103	4:45PM	5:15PM	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3401	12:15PM	12:45PM	Daily

GUAM TO ROTA

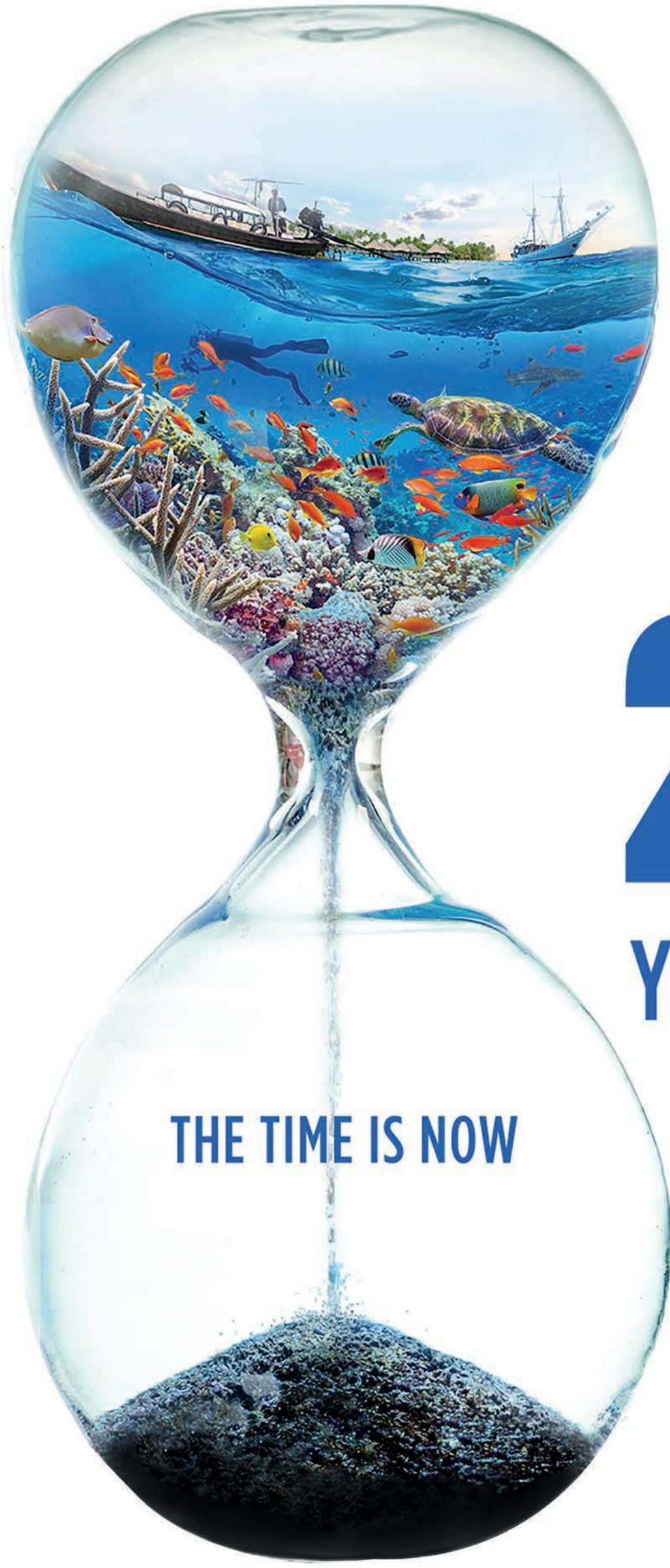
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
4301	1:00PM	1:30PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1201	7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily
1202	8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily
1203	9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily
1204	10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
1205	11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
1206	12:00PM	12:15PM	Daily
1207	1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
1208	2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
1209	3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
1210	4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
1211	5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
1212	6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
2102	7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
2103	8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
2104	9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
2105	10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
2106	11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
2107	12:30PM	12:45PM	Daily
2108	1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
2109	2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
2110	3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
2111	4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
2112	5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
2113	6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily



INTERNATIONAL CORAL REEF INITIATIVE
AND UN ENVIRONMENT
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AND THE TIFFANY & CO. FOUNDATION
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NMI Museum updates

NMI MUSEUM APPEALING TO LEGISLATURE AND BUSINESSES FOR FINANCIAL SUPPORT

The NMI Museum of History and Culture was invited to participate in a workshop that provided technical assistance, cost and operations museum management and discussions surrounding the possible collaboration between the Guam Museum and our local museum.

The trip was a very important trip because for 20 years our museum has never really had a measuring gauge other than the American Memorial Park War Museum. Aquino added that the exhibits that have been displayed on the walls have been for the most part permanent since no budget has been available for rotating exhibits.

With the Guam museum recently completing an upgrade costing over $3.5 million dollars, this was the gauge museums in the Pacific needed because it contained everything that you would expect from being fortunate to have and spend that kind of money. Aquino stated that it was just an unbelievable experience that the NMI Museum delegation witnessed and a "shock and awe" feeling since their museum had state of the art technology as well as interactive technological systems.

Joining the trip was Speaker Ralph Demapan, who for his part participated on a fact finding mission at our invitation. Museum's Director Aquino thanked Speaker Demapan for taking the time out of his schedule to join them on this important trip. I was grateful that the Speaker was able to join and was able to witness and acknowledge that the NMI Museum needs more financial assistance to perform upgrades and a budget to begin construction on the NMI Cultural Center within our grounds.

Aquino expressed hope and optimism that the CNMI Legislature will provide an appropriations and supplemental budget that is worthy of running the museum adequately to include the costs associated to rotate exhibits twice a year. Aquino stated that rotating exhibits are necessary for continued attraction and interests from our visitors, guest and students.

MARIANAS VISITORS AUTHORITY DONATES ANOTHER $50,000 TO THE NMI MUSEUM

On behalf of the NMI Museum, our hardworking Staff and our Board of Governors, I offer my sincere appreciation and gratitude to Mr. Chris Concepcion, Tatiana Babauta and the entire MVA Board for their renewed financial assistance of $50,000 that we will use to build our NMI Museum Cultural Center.

Aquino stated that the landscaping of our grounds are almost complete and that they have been receiving many positive comments about the transformation that was undertaken on the grounds. He added that once the weather improves they will continue with other planned projects.

MR. AND MRS. JOE & MARCIA AYUYU, JOE AYUYU JR. AND MCDONALD'S DONATE $3,000

On Wednesday (June 7, 2018), the NMI Museum received its first cash donation from a business. Aquino said he was very happy that it received its first cash donation (check) from a local business and thanked Mr. & Mrs. Joe and Marcia Ayuyu and their son Joe Jr. for the generous donation that was presented at McDonald's Chalan Laulau.

I am optimistic that more local businesses will be offering financial assistance to help with the remaining renovations that are still pending. McDonald's and the Ayuyu family have been very active giving back to the community like the re-painting of the bus stops throughout the island and I am very grateful that the museum was considered to be a recipient of the generous donation.

We are very excited about the future plans that we have planned for the museum and the donations that we receive from businesses such as McDonald's directly benefits our students, tourists and residents. Aquino said, the NMI Museum has hosted over 600 public and private school students in a span of under 4 months.

On behalf of the NMI Museum, my staff and the Museum Board, I would like to personally welcome McDonald's as a proud sponsor and thank them for the cash donation.

NMI Museum Chairman John Gonzales with Speaker Ralph Demapan

Guam Museum displays the technological advancement of its museum

MUSEUM OUTREACH AND PROMOTING THE NMI MUSEUM

The NMI Museum has been doing outreach and promoting the NMI Museum to build interest in our local demographic numbers that have been very low over the span that the museum has been in existence (20 years). My staff have been at the street market passing out brochures and will be at community events hosted by DCCA, MVA and other organizations promoting our program.

Interactive monitor

Aquino said that one of the many challenges every Executive Director faced was how to increase local interest and visits to the museum. Aquino stated that he is confident that he can achieve this through aggressive promotions at community events and schools.

He went on to say that the law authorizes the Executive Director to develop programs to educate and promote the museum. The Executive Director said that he plans to think outside the box and plans to unveil the marking and promotions vehicles on the Liberation Day Parade. I want the museum to be one of the main tourist attraction site and I have been collaborating with MVA, DCCA, NMC, Carolinian and Indigenous Affairs Office and tour agents to ensure that this will be possible.

Speaker Ralph Demapan along with Guam Museum delegation

IT&E DONATES PHONE, FAX LINE AND INTERNET TO NMI MUSEUM

Museum's Executive Director is very grateful to Mr. Ricky Delgado, Rose Soledad, Janice Tenorio and the entire IT&E leadership team for the generous donation of the museum phone, fax and internet services to be provided at no cost.

Aquino said that without generous contributions from companies such as IT&E, my job would be more challenging and stressful. Aquino added that Mr. Ricky Delgado, IT&E and his management team are outstanding individuals who truly care about the interest of the NMI Museum and deserve recognition for giving back to the community.

Aquino concluded by saying "Every time we get field trips from students, they say it's cold in here and we always remind them about the Air-conditioning units being provided by IT&E. On behalf of the NMI Museum, my staff and our NMI Museum Board, I thank Mr. Ricky Delgado again for everything that he and his company and team have done for the Museum.

NMI MUSEUM RECEIVED ITS FIRST U.S. CONGRESSIONAL TRIBUTE

The NMI Museum received its first U.S. Congressional tribute from U.S. Congressman Gregorio Kilili Sablan. Aquino said he, his staff, our families and the NMI Museum Board were honored by the noble gesture from our U.S. Congressman.

The tribute in itself is a tribute to all our hardworking government employees who dedicate their time and services to the public. My staff and I were just fortunate that the Governor and our hardworking board had the confidence by placing us in this difficult and challenging task.

The Old Japanese Hospital is home to the NMI Museum and is 92 years old and by my account was in one of the worst conditions compared to other agencies. My staff and I have now transformed the museum inside and out and take pride in all our accomplishments.

I would like to thank the Governor for this amazing job, thank the board and my staff for all the hard work they do, and once again, a big thank you to U.S. Congressman Gregorio Kilili Sablan for noticing the transformation and honoring us with his personal appearance to present this tribute.

OIA opens grant period for coral reef initiative

WASHINGTON, D.C.—The U.S. Department of the Interior's Office of Insular Affairs will begin accepting grant applications for the Coral Reef and Natural Resources Initiative.

The CRNR is a federal program aimed at improving the health of coral reef ecosystems and other natural resources in the U.S. insular areas.

OIA has indicated that it will prioritize projects in the insular areas that address threats to coral reef ecosystems, research on sea level rise impacts coral reefs, and applications to combat and eradicate invasive species.

Applications are open to insular government entities, educational institutions, or non-profit organizations.

The deadline for submissions through grants.gov using CFDA# 15.875 is July 6, 2018.

"The Coral Reef and Natural Resources Initiative is an important program that will help preserve our coral reefs and combat the spread of invasive species [in] Guam and in the territories," said Delegate Madeleine Z. Bordallo (D-GU).

"Each year, I am proud to join my colleagues from the territories in providing congressional appropriations for OIA to support this program and other that benefit our island and the other insular areas. I encourage organizations on Guam to apply for this important grant opportunity, and I will be happy to support their applications." ***(PR)***

UOG's Underwood talks about Magellan in Spain

During a weeklong visit to Spain, University of Guam president Robert Underwood and UOG anthropology professor Dr. David Atienza met with Spanish government officials, Spain's Ministry of Culture and Ministry of Defense Casa Asia, and representatives of three different universities.

The week began on May 24 in a meeting with over 100 Spanish officials at a panel discussion hosted by the Cervantes Institute in Madrid, Spain. The event was organized by Rafael Rodriguez-Ponga, executive director of the institute and a researcher into the Spanish imprint on the CHamoru language. The focus of the symposium was to discuss the upcoming 500th anniversary of the circumnavigation of Earth by the Magellan voyage in 1521.

The title of the panel was "La Isla de Guam, Desde Magallanes/ Elcano Hasta Hoy" (the island of Guam since Magellan/Elcano to today). Providing remarks were Fernando Benzo, Secretary of Culture; David Navarro, director general of Casa Asia which is affiliated with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Rafael Rodriguez-Ponga. Speaking in the panel were Underwood, Atienza, and Rodriguez.

Underwood stressed the ambivalent relationship Guam has with Spain regarding the Magellan experience and the Spanish colonization of the Marianas.

"The university is interested in ensuring that the indigenous perspective is given a respectful place in the commemoration of Magellan's voyage and that Guam be given a special place in research, discussions and related activities," said Underwood.

Underwood and Atienza also visited the U.S. Embassy in Madrid to meet with Benjamin Ziff, deputy chief of mission, to discuss Guam projects with various Spanish ministries and universities. Ziff promised his cooperation to work with Spanish officials to support endeavors in Guam concerning Magellan's circumnavigation.

"We are hopeful that this effort will lead to scholarly activities, faculty and student exchanges, events, and future collaboration," said Underwood.

YSLA DEGUAJAN.
LA ISLA DE GUAM, DESDE MAGALLANES / ELCANO HASTA HOY
Con la participación de Robert Underwood, David Atienza y Rafael Rodríguez Ponga
Modera Raquel Calleja
Intervienen Fernando Benzo y David Navarro
Madrid, 24 de mayo de 2018

During a visit to Spain to meet with Spanish government officials, universities and other organizations, University of Guam president Robert Underwood and UOG anthropology professor Dr. David Atienza participated in a panel discussion titled "La Isla de Guam, Desde Magallanes/Elcano Hasta Hoy" (The Island of Guam Since Magellan/Elcano to Today). From left to right are Atienza, Underwood, and Rafael Rodriguez-Ponga, executive director of the Cervantes Institute.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

> *University of Guam president Robert Underwood visits Spain to participate in a panel discussion on Magellan and to develop academic and collaborative relationships with other universities*

Spanish universities

Underwood and Atienza also visited the Universitat Pompeu Frabra in Barcelona to discuss future academic relationships with historian Dr. Alex Coelo who has worked on Marianas history.

They also visited the Complutense University in Madrid and representatives of the Universidad Nacional de Educacion a Distancia, Spain's online university, to discuss academic relationships, student exchanges and further connections that center on the study of the circumnavigation.

Of particular note, Underwood and Atienza attended a meeting with Spanish Navy officials at the Naval Museum. They will be responsible for nearly 40 percent of the formal activities sponsored by the Spanish government in connection with the circumnavigation, including a visit by a Spanish naval training vessel which is following the voyage of Magellan and Elcano.

Vice admirals Horcada and Zumalacarregui, Jose Figuero (chief of staff for state secretary on Defense Policy) listened to Underwood and Atienza's views on how to structure a future visit and provide an appropriate commemoration.

Atienza and Underwood also met with Camilo Vazquez, primary administrator for all the commemorative activities under the Ministry of Education, Culture, and Sport. Vasquez was able to connect the university with a worldwide network of universities working on researching the circumnavigation. The name of the organization is the Red Mundial de Ciudades Magallánicas.

The two UOG representatives concluded their visit by participating in a public panel on the future of Guam sponsored by the Association of Spanish Pacific Studies and Casa Asia, a consortium made up of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the government of Catalonia, and the Barcelona and Madrid city councils. The panel conversation included remarks from Rafael Rodriguez-Ponga and Dr. Florentino Rodao who is a scholar with published works on the history of the Marianas Islands.

Underwood said, "It was an incredibly busy and ambitious series of activities which will help Guam establish itself in an appropriate light in the upcoming attention to the 500th anniversary of Magellan's voyage in 2021."

Underwood is currently in Prague, Czech Republic to formalize a relationship with the National Museum on an extensive collection of plants collected in Guam in the 1790's. He will also be visiting a researcher who has uncovered letters written by Czech missionaries (from Bohemia) who came to the Marianas during the time of San Vitores and the 18th century. There will also be three visits to universities to establish academic relationships. ***(UOG)***

University of Guam president Robert Underwood, right, presents a latte stone statue to Rafael Rodriguez-Ponga, executive director of the Cervantes Institute, left.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Conservation funding parity bill clears committee

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Delegate Madeleine Z. Bordallo announced yesterday that the House Committee on Natural Resources has favorably reported H.R. 5875, a bill she introduced to provide parity for the five U.S. territories and the District of Columbia with the 50 states under the Pittman-Robertson and Dingell-Johnson Acts' federal funding formulas. The bill was reported unanimously to the full House of Representatives for consideration.

H.R. 5875 is cosponsored the other five members of Congress representing U.S. territories and the District of Columbia: Reps. Jenniffer González-Colón (R-PR), Aumua Amata Coleman Radewagen (R-AS), Stacey E. Plaskett (D-USVI), Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (D-NMI), and Eleanor Holmes Norton (D-DC).

The Pittman-Robertson Act provides federal funding to support wildlife conservation and hunter safety projects nationwide.

The Dingell-Johnson Act does the same for fish conservation, coastal restoration, boating safety, vessel sanitation, aquatic education, and public access for recreational boating.

Both laws provide funding in support of local management of fish and wildlife resources. Each state/territorial fish and wildlife agency receives a yearly allocation of this federal funding, from the U.S. Department of the Interior.

Bordallo's H.R. 5875 would remove outdated and arbitrary caps in current law that prevent the five U.S. territories and the District of Columbia from receiving full, state-equivalent shares of this federal funding, at no cost to taxpayers. The U.S. Department of the Interior's funding levels for fiscal year 2018 announced in March show the current funding disparity: Washington, D.C. is allotted just $1.17 million for fiscal year 2018; Puerto Rico, $7 million; while the territories of American Samoa, Guam, Northern Mariana Islands, and U.S. Virgin Islands each got $2.5 million.

In comparison, Delaware, Hawaii, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, and Vermont each got $8.3 million.

"I thank Chairman Bishop and my colleagues on the House Natural Resources Committee for their unanimous support of my bill to give Guam and the other territories parity in receiving federal funding from conservation, outdoor recreation, boating, and sport fishing fees," Bordallo said. "This bill continues my efforts to bring more federal resources to Guam and treat our island fairly in *all* federal programs. My bill would provide more than three times more federal funding from these programs, which would amount to millions of additional federal dollars for GovGuam. I am working to advance this bill on the House floor so we can ensure that Guam and the other territories receive our equal share from these federal programs." ***(PR)***

DIVISION OF COASTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

Caller Box 10007, Gualo Rai Center, Saipan MP 96950
TEL. NO. 664-8300 • FAX NO. 664-8315

NOTICE OF APPLICATION

As of June 08, 2018

THE FOLLOWING IS A PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT OF COASTAL PERMIT APPLICATIONS RECEIVED BY THE DCRM OFFICE:

APPLICANT	DATE APPLICATION RECEIVED	APPLICATION PROJECT DESCRIPTION	LOCATION	TYPE	STATUS
1. Patricia Garcia Malakoti	6/6/2018 RSm-2018-X-0417	Pathway access to family beach	Cocomo Beach, Songsong. Rota	Shoreline	Under Review*
2. BIG EYE, LLC	6/6/2018 SLR-2018-X-128	SCUBA Diving	All Saipan Dive Sites	Non-Motorized Marine Sports	Under Review
3. D.W., LLC	6/6/2018 SLR-2018-X-127	Snorkeling	Saipan Lagoon & Managaha	Non-Motorized Marine Sports	Under Review*
4. SEVENTH SENSE INTERNATIONAL, INC. dba Dive Site With	6/5/2018 S/TLR-2018-X-126	SCUBA Diving	All Saipan & Tinian Dive Sites	Non-Motorized Marine Sports	Under Review
5. SAIPAN DIVE ACADEMY, INC.	6/5/2018 S/TLR-2018-X-125	SCUBA Diving	All Saipan & Tinian Dive Sites	Non-Motorized Marine Sports	Under Review
6. SL CAO CORPORATION dba MoMo Marine Sports	6/4/2018 SLR-2018-X-124	Snorkeling & Kayak	Grotto, Managaha, Obyan, Laolao, & Paupau	Non-Motorized Marine Sports	Under Review*
7. Macro Energy, Inc.	6/4/2018 SLR-2018-X-123	Snorkeling & SCUBA Diving	All Saipan Dives Sites	Non-Motorized Marine Sports	Under Review
8. KWON & BYUN CORP. dba Saipan Atty Dive	6/4/2018 SLR-2018-X-122	SCUBA Diving	Banza, Wing, Grotto, Naftan Point, Obyan, Ice Cream, & HSK Family	Non-Motorized Marine Sports	Under Review
9. SAIPAN SUNSET CRUISE, INC.	6/4/2018 SPI-2018-X-119	Drydock	North Seaplane Ramp, Lower Base	Ports & Industrial	Under Review
10. Windsurfing Saipan, Inc. dba Sea Wind Marine Sports	6/4/2018 SLR-2018-X-118	Windsurfng, Standup Paddle Boarding, Kayak, & Snorkeling	Hyatt Regency Hotel beach side	Non-Motorized Marine Sports	Under Review
11. Auto Marine, Inc	5/31/2018 SLR-2018-X-113	Parasailing, Banana Boat, & Seawalker	Saipan Lagoon Marine Sports	Motorized	Under Review
12. Mark Arnold L. Santos dba Mac's Marine	5/31/2018 SLR-2018-X-112	Parasailing, Banana Boat, & Seawalker	Saipan Lagoon	Motorized Marine Sports	Under Review
13. Asia Marine Sports	5/31/2018 SLR-2018-X-111	Banana Boat, Snorkeling, Aqua-Cycle Water Tikes, Rowing/Sculling, Kayaking, Standup Paddle Board, Windsurfing, Non-Motorized Kite Boarding, & SCUBA Diving	North of Grandvrio Hotel	Motorized Marine Sports	Under Review
14. Island Marine Sports, INC	5/31/2018 SLR-2018-X-110	Parasailing	Outer Cove Marina	Motorized Marine Sports	Under Review
15. Crystal Star Corporation	5/30/2018 SLR-2018-X-107	Kayak, Standup Paddle Boarding, & Snorkeling	Paupau beach	Non-Motorized Marine Sports	Under Review
16. InterPacific Resorts Saipan Corporation dba Pacific Islands Club	5/30/2018 SLR-2018-X-106	Kayak, Windsurf Boards, Sailboats, Standup Paddle Boarding, & Snorkeling	PIC beach side	Non-Motorized	Under Review Marine Sports
17. ADVANCE MARINE SAIPAN CORPORATION	5/25/2018 SLR-2018-X-097	Parasailing	Managaha	Motorized Marine Sports	Under Review
18. SAIPAN AQUA WORLD, INC.	5/25/2018 SLR-2018-X-094	Seawalker & Snorkeling	Saipan Lagoon & Managaha	Motorized Marine Sports	Under Review
19. Tao Tao Marianas dba Tao Tao Marine Sports	5/25/2018 SLR-2018-X-093	Parasailing	Saipan Lagoon & Managaha	Motorized Marine Sports	Under Review
20. Tao Tao Marianas dba Tao Tao Marie Sports	5/25/2018 SLR-2018-X-092	Jet-ski (PWC)	Saipan Lagoon & Managaha	Motorized Marine Sports	Under Review
21. Tao Tao Marianas dba Tao Tao Marine Sports	5/25/2018 SLR-2018-X-091	Banana Boat	North of Grandvrio & Managaha	Motorized Marine Sports	Under Review
22. SEAHORSE INC. SAIPAN	5/25/2018 SLR-2018-X-090	Banana Boat, Jet-ski (PWC), & Parasailing	North of Hyatt Regency Hotel & Managaha	Motorized Marine Sports	Under Review
23. Docomo Pacific Saipan	6/5/2018 TS-2017-X-004 (Amendment 2018-1)	Fiber Optic Installation Add'l Routes	San Jose, Tinian	Non-Construction Existing Infrastructure	Approved* 6/6/2018
24. Phoenix Enterprises, Inc. dba Phoenix Marine Sports	5/31/2018 SLR-2018-X-114	Kayak, Snorkeling, & HobieCat	Paupau beach	Non-Motorized Marine Sports	Approved* 6/6/2018
25. Phillip's Corporation, INC dba Snorkeling Tour	5/25/2018 SLR-2018-X-096	Snorkeling	Grotto	Non-Motorized Marine Sports	Approved* 6/6/2018
26. SAIPAN A-VENTURE, LLC	5/25/2018 SLR-2018-X-099	Snorkeling	Grotto, Micro beach, & Laolao	Non-Motorized Marine Sports	Approved* 6/6/2018
27. Akhil Chandra Mollick dba Ichiban Marine Sports	5/21/2018 SLR-2018-X-079	Banana Boat, Wakeboard, Snorkeling, & Kayak	Hyatt Regency Beach Side & Outer Cove Marina	Motorized Marine Sports	Approved* 6/6/2018
28. Big Boys Marine Sports, Inc. dba Big Boy'z II Marine	5/21/2018 SLR-2018-X-080 AMENDMENT	Parasailing	Kanoa, Susupe, Fiesta, Garapan Beach, & Outer Cove Marina	Motorized Marine Sports	Approved* 6/6/2018
29. Big Boys Marine Sports, Inc. dba Big Boy'z II Marine	5/21/2018 SLR-2018-X-081 AMENDMENT	Helmet Diving & Jet-ski	Kanoa & Fiesta Beach Side	Motorized Marine Sports	Approved* 6/6/2018
30. MP Holdings, LLC dba Saipan Vegas	2/1/2018 SMS-2017-X-098 (Amendment 2018-1)	Proposed additional 48 units two storey hotel rooms with swimming pool, parking lot & temporary staging area	Chalan Laulau	Major Siting	Approved* 6/6/2018
31. Black Bison Travel Corp. 1st Diving Club	6/1/2018 SLR-2018-X-117	Kayak, Snorkeling, & SCUBA Diving	Grotto & Laolao	Non-Motorized Marine Sports	Approved* 6/6/2018
32. Hi-Five Co., LTD	6/1/2018 SLR-2018-X-115	Snorkeling	Managaha	Non-Motorized Marine Sports	Approved* 6/6/2018
33. BIG BOY MARINE SPORTS dba Big Boy'z II Marine	6/4/2018 SLR-2018-X-120	#1 Banana Boat, Snorkeling, Kayak, & Standup Paddle Boarding	Garapan	Motorized Marine Sports	Approved* 6/6/2018
34. BIG BOY MARINE SPORTS dba Big Boy'z II Marine	6/4/2018 SLR-2018-X-121	#2 Banana Boat, Snorkeling, Kayak, & Standup Paddle Boarding	Susupe	Motorized Marine Sports	Approved* 6/6/2018
35. Wondersea Saipan, INC. S/TLR-2018-X-103	5/29/2018 Dive Sites	SCUBA Diving	All Saipan & Tinian	Non-Motorized Marine Sports	Approved* 6/6/2018
36. Marianas Trekking, LLC	5/29/2018 SLR-2018-X-101	Kayak, Canoe, Snorkeling, & Standup Paddle Boarding	Saipan Lagoon & Managaha	Non-Motorized Marine Sports	Approved* 6/6/2018
37. DEEP BLUE SEA CORP.	5/24/2018 S/TLR-2018-X-089	SCUBA Diving	Obyan, Grotto, Laolao Managaha, & Tinian	Non-Motorized Marine Sports	Approved* 6/6/2018
38. Bsea, Inc. dba Bsea Sunsports	5/21/2018 SLR-2018-X-076	Snorkeling	Saipan Lagoon	Motorized Marine Sports	Approved* 6/6/2018
39. Bsea, Inc. dba Bsea Sunsports	5/21/2018 SLR-2018-X-077	Parasailing & Banana Boat	Tanapag Lagoon	Motorized Marine Sports	Approved* 6/6/2018
40. Time Creation Corporation	5/30/2018 SSPILR-2018-X-105	Drydock	Able Dock	Shoreline, Ports & Industrial, Lagoon & Reef	Approved* 6/4/2018
41. SHIM CORPORATION dba Pro Divers Saipan	5/25/2018 S/TLR-2018-X-100	SCUBA Diving	Grotto, Obyan, Laolao, & Tinian	Non-Motorized Marine Sports	Approved* 6/4/2018
42. H2M SAIPAN CORP. dba H2M Saipan Dive Center	5/29/2018 SLR-2018-X-104	SCUBA Diving	Banza, Wing, Grotto, Laolao, Naftan Point, Obyan, & Ice Cream	Non-Motorized Marine Sports	Approved* 6/4/2018
43. CMLC Artha CO., LTD	5/31/2018 S/TLR-2018-X-109	SCUBA Diving	All Saipan & Tinian Dive Sites	Non-Motorized Marine Sports	Approved* 6/4/2018
44. Ocean Sports Corporation dba Aqua Dive	6/1/2018 SLR-2018-X-116	SCUBA Diving	Saipan Lagoon	Non-Motorized Marine Sports	Approved* 6/4/2018
45. Deep Blue, INC. dba Deep Blue Diving	5/25/2018 S/TLR-2018-X-098	SCUBA Diving	Grotto, Laolao, Obyan, Tinian, Dimple, & Pipeline	Non-Motorized Marine Sports	Approved* 6/4/2018
46. UNITED FRONT CO., LTD dba Super Fish Dive Tour	5/24/2018 SLR-2018-X-085	SCUBA Diving	Obyan, Laolao, & Grotto	Non-Motorized Marine Sports	Approved* 6/4/2018
47. DIVE MARIANAS CORP. dba Dive Saipan	5/24/2018 S/TLR-2018-X-088	SCUBA Diving	Obyan, Grotto, Laolao, & Tinian	Non-Motorized Marine Sports	Approved* 6/4/2018
48. Saipan Diving World, INC.	5/24/2018 SLR-2018-X-087	SCUBA Diving	Obyan, Grotto, & Laolao	Non-Motorized Marine Sports	Approved* 6/4/2018
49. Saipan International Dive Center, INC.	5/24/2018 SLR-2018-X-086	SCUBA Diving	Obyan, Grotto, Laolao, & Managaha	Non-Motorized Marine Sports	Approved* 6/4/2018
50. Thank You Saipan Corporation	5/17/2018 SLR-2018-X-072	SCUBA Diving, Helmet Diving, & Snorkel	Saipan Lagoon	Motorized Marine Sports	Approved* 6/4/2018
51. Amodiving Center, Inc.	5/22/2018 SLR-2018-X-082	SCUBA Diving & Snorkeling	All Saipan Dive Sites	Non-Motorized Marine Sports	Approved* 6/4/2018
52. KURA-LING DIVE COMPANY	5/25/2018 S/T/RLR-2018-X-095	SCUBA Diving	All Saipan, Tinian, & Rota Dive Sites	Non-Motorized Marine Sports	Approved* 6/4/2018
53. Don E. Smith	5/30/2018 SPI-2018-X-108	Drydock	South Seaplane Ramp	Ports & Industrial	Approved* 6/1/2018
54. United States Navy/CTF73	03/02/2018 SPILR-2018-X-044	Salvage & Recovery of MV Lady Carolina	Tanapag Harbor Garapan	Ports & Industrial Lagoon & Reef	Approved* 6/1/2018
55. Saipan Marine Dive Co., LTD dba Saipan Marine Dive	5/17/2018 SLR-2018-X-073	SCUBA Diving	Laolao beach	Non-Motorized Marine Sports	Approved* 5/31/2018
56. Joji Taguchi dba Tropical Leisure Sports, INC	5/9/2018 SLR-2018-X-068	Parasailing, Jet ski, & Banana Boat	Saipan Lagoon	Motorized Marine Sports	Approved* 5/31/2018
57. Micronesian Telecommunication Corporation dba IT&E	5/14/2018 S/T/RMS-91-X-117 Amendment 2018-1	Fiber Optic Split Pipe Repairs	Cable Landing Site Tinian & Rota	Major Siting	Approved* 5/25/2018
58. Blue Sea Sports, Inc.	5/9/2018 SLR-2018-X-066	SCUBA Diving	All Saipan Dive Sites	Non-Motorized Marine Sports	Approved* 5/25/2018
59. Aqua Connections, INC	5/9/2018 S/TLR-2018-X-067	SCUBA Diving & Snorkeling	Saipan, Tinian & Managaha	Non-Motorized Marine Sports	Approved* 5/25/2018
60. Marianas Seas Adventures Inc.	5/16/2018 SLR-2018-X-071	SCUBA Diving	Managaha, West & South of Saipan & Tinian	Non-Motorized Marine Sports	Approved* 5/25/2018

NMIAC §15-10-210 of the CRM Rules and Regulations requires all permit applications to be published in a newspaper for general circulation within the CNMI within 15 days of receipt of application. The list reflects recently received permit applications and those with a recent change in status. New applications are marked with an asterisk (*).

The Public is invited to submit written comments regarding any of the above projects for which a permit decision has not been issued. All permit comments should identify the project by application number. Your comments should be mailed or hand-delivered to the DCRM Office. All persons who desire a public hearing regarding any project may do so by submitting a written request for a public hearing to the DCRM Office within fourteen (14) days for minor permits (APCs) and proposed amended major sitings. Public Hearings are required for all new major siting projects. All public hearing notices are published in a local newspaper of general circulation. Residents of Rota and Tinian may submit comments and hearing requests to their local DCRM Coordinator. Persons wishing to retain the right to appeal a DCRM Permit decision must file a notice of appeal with the DCRM office within thirty (30) days of the issuance of the DCRM permit decision as provided in Part 200 § 15-10-235 of the DCRM Regulations.

Business

Trump to face tough crowd at G-7 amid tariff fight

WASHINGTON (AP)—Before President Donald Trump sits down with a notorious dictator, he will face what may well turn out to be a tougher crowd—some of America's oldest allies.

With his new tariffs increasing U.S. isolation, Trump heads to Canada on Friday for a meeting of the Group of Seven industrialized nations. The White House is expecting a chilly reception from Canada and West European countries, already frustrated over Trump's withdrawal from the Paris climate accord and the Iran nuclear agreement.

German Chancellor Angela Merkel previewed the dynamics on Wednesday, telling the German parliament that "it is apparent that we have a serious problem with multilateral agreements here, and so there will be contentious discussions."

Anticipating a tense two days in Quebec, Trump has complained about having to attend the summit, particularly since it comes just before his high-stakes meeting in Singapore with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, said two people with knowledge of his thinking. But the White House has signaled no change in plans.

"The president wants to go on the trip," Larry Kudlow, Trump's top economic adviser, said of the summit in Canada. "The president is at ease with all of these tough issues.

"There may be disagreements," Kudlow added. "I regard this as much like a family quarrel."

Trump also is set to hold a series of one-on-one meetings, including with Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and French President Emmanuel Macron. Trump is unlikely to back away from the nationalistic policies that have frustrated and unnerved allies but which he sees as key promises to his most loyal voters. He has highlighted his efforts on Twitter, writing Monday: "The U.S. has made such bad trade deals over so many years that we can only WIN!"

Kudlow said allies should understand that Trump "will do what is necessary to protect the U.S., its businesses and its workforce," adding that Trump "has always said, and I agree, tariffs are a tool in that effort."

Trump announced in March that he was imposing tariffs on imports of steel and aluminum, but he temporarily granted a waiver to U.S allies like Canada, Mexico and the European Union, and also to China, as his administration said trade talks were continuing.

AP

President Donald Trump speaks during a bill signing ceremony for the "VA Mission Act" in the Rose Garden of the White House, Wednesday, June 6, 2018, in Washington.

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

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1st AMENDED NOTICE TO BIDDERS

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY (CPA) is inviting qualified contractors to submit their qualifications and bid proposals for the **BENJAMIN TAISACAN MANGLONA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT AIRFIELD MARKING AND SIGNAGE IMPROVEMENTS, COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS, AIP Nos. 3-69-0003-26/XX).**

Sealed Proposals will be received at the office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, at Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, **2:00 PM, WEDNESDAY, JUNE 27, 2018.** Sealed proposals will be publicly opened and read immediately after at the Airport Conference Room, 2nd floor of the Departure Terminal.

The Project, in general, requires the removal and replacement of all airfield markings, procurement and replacement of airfield signage and other miscellaneous work in accordance with the plans and specifications and in compliance with FAA's Advisory Circular No. 150/5340-1L.

The Project is being financed by funds from U.S. Federal Aviation Administration and Commonwealth Ports Authority. The contract award, if it is to be made, will be made within ninety (90) calendar days from the receipt of bids. CPA reserves the right to hold such bids in effect for one hundred twenty (120) calendar days from the date of bid opening.

The contract period for construction of the project shall be in accordance with Item G-100-3.2 (Contract Time) of the General Project Requirement of the Technical Specifications. Liquidated damages shall be in accordance with Item G-100-3.4 (Liquidated Damages) of the General Project Requirements. The contractor shall be assessed with the liquidated damages if the completion of the Project is delayed beyond the contract time without excuse.

The apparent low bidder may be subject to a thorough and comprehensive review of its qualifications and Bid Documents to ensure that they are "responsive and responsible." This review will include, but is not necessarily limited to previous project experience, financial capabilities, quality of equipment and personnel, and bonding and insurance. If the apparent low bidder is found not to be "responsive or responsible", their bid will be rejected and the next lowest bidder will be evaluated for qualifications.

Bid proposal and contract documents including plans and specifications, may be obtained at the CPA Accounting Office, Commonwealth Ports Authority, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, P.O. Box 501055, Saipan, MP 96950, upon the payment of **ONE HUNDRED FIFTY DOLLARS ($150.00)** for each set of plan and specification documents in electronic form (CD) including the bid schedule. This payment is nonrefundable. Payment shall be made in cash, cashier's check or U.S. postal money order payable to the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

A pre-bid conference will be held at the Rota Port Manager's Office at 10:00 AM, FRIDAY, JUNE 1, 2018 to explain and clarify any questions regarding this project. A site visit will be followed by the pre-bid conference.

Questions should be submitted to the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, in writing, at least seven (7) days prior to the bid opening.

Each proposal shall be on a form furnished by the Commonwealth Ports Authority. The bidders are required to use the bid schedule form on the CD-Rom. The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to reject any or all bid proposals submitted for: (a) any of the reasons set forth in this Notice to Bidders; or (b) any of the reasons set forth in the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations regarding bid rejection or cancellation; or (c) sufficient justification exists that awarding the procurement contract would not be in the best interest of CPA. CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said bids if in its sole opinion to do so would be in CPA's best interest.

Each bid shall be accompanied by either a bid bond by U.S. Treasury listed or CPA approved surety company, a certified check, or a cashier's check in the amount not less than **TEN PERCENT (10%)** of the bid price. Checks shall be made payable to the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

All mechanics and laborers for this procurement project shall be paid no less than the minimum wage rate established by the CNMI or the U.S. Secretary of Labor, whichever is higher. A copy of the Department of the Federal Labor Wage Rate Determination is included in Section GP 70-24 of the specifications. The bidder shall take into account minimum wage increases that may be imposed in the CNMI over the life of the Contract and include associated costs in the bid proposal. The EEO requirements, labor provisions, and wage rates are included in the specifications, and bid proposal documents are available for inspection at the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

All bidders shall comply with all Federal requirements under this federally funded procurement, including but not limited to Buy American Preference, Foreign Trade Restriction, Davis Bacon, Veteran's Preference, Affirmative Action and Government-wide Debarment and Suspension and Government-wide Requirements for Drug-free Workplace. Further details on all Federal requirements are provided in the specifications.

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY:

/s/ CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
Executive Director

Date: June 6, 2018

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

Main Office: FRANCISCO C. ADA/SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
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1ST AMENDED NOTICE TO BIDDERS

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY (CPA) is inviting qualified contractors to submit their qualifications and bid proposals for the **TINIAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT ARFF BUILDING RENOVATION, TINIAN, COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS, AIP NO. 3-69-0011-28/XX.**

Bidders are to submit one original and two copies of their bid which shall be sealed in an envelope and marked on the cover package outside as follows: *"TNI ARFF BUILDING RENOVATIONS, Tinian International Airport, Tinian, CNMI, AIP No. 3-69-0011-28/XX"*, and submitted no later than **2:00 p.m., MONDAY, JUNE 25, 2018,** to the Office of the Executive Director at the Saipan International Airport. Sealed proposals will be publicly opened and read at the Saipan Airport Conference Room immediately after the deadline on the same day.

The project, in general, consist of the TNI ARFF Builidng Renovation, extension and construction of new building. It includes demolition of existing ARFF Dispatch and first bay of the aforesaid building. A three storey building will be constructed as this site, and the remaining building will receive extension of frontage at Bay 2 and Bay 3. A new auxiliary building will be constructed adjacent to the building. Also, this project includes replacement of existing chainlink fence, replacement of water tank, additional parking and other associated works, all in accordance with the Project Drawings and Specifications.

The Project is being financed by funds from the U.S. Federal Aviation Administration and the Commonwealth Ports Authority. The contract award, if it is to be made, will be made within ninety (90) calendar days from the receipt of bids. CPA reserves the right to hold such bids in effect for one hundred twenty (120) calendar days from the date of bid opening.

The contract period for construction of the project in its entirety shall be **Four Hundred Thirty (430) Calendar Days.** Liquidated damages in the amount of **One Thousand ($1,000.00) Dollars** shall be assessed the Contractor for each calendar day that the completion of the Project is delayed beyond the contract completion date without approved excuse.

The apparent low bidder will be subject to a thorough and comprehensive review of its qualifications and Bid Documents to ensure that they are "responsive and responsible." This review will include, but is not necessarily limited to previous project experience, financial capabilities, quality of equipment and personnel, and bonding and insurance. If the apparent low bidder is found not to be "responsive or responsible", their bid will be rejected and the next lowest bidder will be evaluated for qualifications.

A CD-ROM containing the Bid Proposal and Contract Documents including plans and specifications, may be obtained at the Commonwealth Ports Authority's Accounting Office, 2nd floor of the departure terminal, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, P.O. Box 501055, Saipan, MP 96950, upon the payment of **TWO HUNDRED U.S. DOLLARS ($200.00)** for each set of plans and documents in electronic form (CD) including the bid schedule. The payment is nonrefundable. Payment shall be made in cash, cashier's check or U.S. postal money order payable to the "Commonwealth Ports Authority".

A pre-bid conference will be held at the Tinian Ports Manager's Office at the Tinian International Airport at **10:00 AM, MONDAY, JUNE 11, 2018,** to explain and clarify any questions regarding this project. A site visit will be followed by the pre-bid conference.

Questions should be submitted to the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, in writing, at least seven (7) days prior to the bid opening date.

Each bid proposal shall be on a form furnished by the Commonwealth Ports Authority. The bidders shall use the bid schedule form available on the CD. Each bidder must also supply all information required by the bid proposal documents and specifications.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to reject any or all bid proposals submitted for: (a) any of the reasons set forth in this Notice to Bidders; or (b) any of the reasons set forth in the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations regarding bid rejection or cancellation; (c) any calculation error made in the bid schedule or misenter of the quantity of line item; or (d) sufficient justification exists that awarding the project contract would not be in the best interest of CPA. CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said bids if in its sole opinion to do so would be in CPA's best interest.

Each bid shall be accompanied by either a bid bond by a U.S. Treasury listed surety company, a certified check, or a cashier's check in the amount not less than ten percent (10%) of the bid price. Checks shall be made payable to the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

All mechanics and laborers for this procurement project shall be paid no less than the minimum wage rate established by the CNMI or the U.S. Secretary of Labor, whichever is higher. A copy of the Department of the Federal Labor Wage Rate Determination is included in Section GP 70 of the specifications. The bidder shall take into account minimum wage increases that may be imposed in the CNMI over the life of the Contract and include associated costs in the bid proposal. The EEO requirements, labor provisions, and wage rates are included in the specifications, and bid proposal documents are available for inspection at the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

All bidders shall comply with all Federal requirements under this Federally funded procurement, including but not limited to Buy American Preference, Foreign Trade Restriction, Davis Bacon, Veteran's Preference, Affirmative Action and Governmentwide Debarment and Suspension and Governmentwide Requirements for Drug-free Workplace. Further details on all Federal requirements are provided in the specifications.

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY:

/s/ CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
Executive Director

Date: June 6, 2018

Congressional Dems take Trump to court over foreign favors

WASHINGTON (AP)—Lawyers representing nearly 200 Democrats in Congress plan to argue in federal court Thursday that President Donald Trump is violating the Constitution by accepting foreign state favors without first seeking congressional approval.

The case argues that the president has received foreign government favors, such as Chinese government trademarks for his companies, payments for hotel room stays and event space rentals by representatives of Saudi Arabia and Kuwait, and proceeds from Chinese or Emirati-linked government purchases of office space in Trump Tower.

Ethics experts say the constitutional emoluments clause was created by the Founding Fathers to ensure that government officials act with the interests of the American public in mind instead of their own pocketbooks. Since then, it has been applied to the lowest of government of officials up to the president without a court challenge.

"This argument on Thursday will essentially put to the test the proposition that no one is above the law, not even the president," said Sen. Richard Blumenthal, a Connecticut Democrat who is leading the effort. "He's thumbed his nose at the plain text and in doing so he's thumbed his nose at the American people."

Unlike prior presidents, Trump chose not to divest from his assets and he remains the owner of the Trump Organization, a sprawling business empire with 550 entities in more than 20 countries that include branded hotels, golf courses, licensing deals and other interests. His Washington, D.C., hotel just steps from the White House has become a magnet for foreign governments, including groups tied to Kuwait, Bahrain, Turkey, Malaysia and Saudi Arabia.

The District of Columbia case is one of three that argues the president is violating the emoluments clause, which bans accepting benefits from foreign governments unless a majority of both houses of Congress consent.

But Thursday's case is different in that the plaintiffs in the suit—members of Congress—are mentioned in the clause itself, and they believe that Congress not only has a right but is required, as part of their jobs, to weigh in on potential emoluments such as a $6.5 million condo purchase by the Qatari government or a Chinese-government owned company's investment in a project that will include a Trump-branded hotel and golf course in Indonesia.

EPA head laughs off Chick-fil-A questions; senior aide quits

WASHINGTON (AP)—Environmental Protection Agency chief Scott Pruitt laughed off questions Wednesday about whether he used his office to try to help his wife get a "business opportunity" with Chick-fil-A, while a close aide abruptly resigned amid new ethics allegations against her boss.

Pruitt said in a statement that his scheduling director, Millan Hupp, 26, had resigned. It came two days after Democratic lawmakers made public her testimony to a House oversight panel that Pruitt had her do personal errands for him, including inquiring about buying a used mattress from the Trump International Hotel.

Last year, Pruitt also directed Hupp's younger sister to reach out to a senior executive at Chick-fil-A to inquire about a "business opportunity." At the time, Sydney Hupp, 25, was also working in Pruitt's office as an EPA scheduler.

That business opportunity turned out to be Pruitt's desire to acquire a fast-food franchise for his wife.

Federal ethics codes prohibit having staffers conduct personal errands and bar officials from using their position for private gain.

Despite the mounting scandals, President Donald Trump continues to stand by Pruitt and lavished praise on him Wednesday at a hurricane-preparedness briefing attended by Cabinet secretaries and agency heads.

"EPA is doing really, really well," Trump told Pruitt. "And you know, somebody has to say that about you a little bit. You know that, Scott. But you have done—I tell you, the EPA is doing so well. ... And people are really impressed with the job that's being done at the EPA. Thank you very much, Scott."

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

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NOTICE TO BIDDERS

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY (CPA) is inviting qualified contractors to submit their qualifications and bid proposals for the **BENJAMIN TAISACAN MANGLONA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT PERIMETER SECURITY FENCE REPLACEMENT, COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS, AIP NO.: 3-69-0003-27/XX.**

One original and three copies of the Sealed Proposals will be received at the office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, at Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, at **2:00 PM, FRIDAY, JUNE 22, 2018**, at which time and place the sealed proposals will be publicly opened and read.

The Project, in general, consists of Rota International Airport Perimeter Security Fence Replacement with perimeter access road, all in accordance with the plans and specifications.

Bid proposal and contract documents including plans and specifications, may be obtained at the Commonwealth Ports Authority's Accounting Office, 2nd floor of the departure terminal, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, P.O. Box 501055, Saipan, MP 96950, upon the payment of **TWO HUNDRED U.S. DOLLARS ($200.00)** for each set of plan documents in electronic form (CD) including the bid schedule. This payment is nonrefundable. Payment shall be made in cash, cashier's check or U.S. postal money order payable to the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

The Project is being financed by funds from U.S. Federal Aviation Administration and the Commonwealth Ports Authority. The contract award, if it is to be made, will be made within ninety (90) calendar days from the receipt of bids. CPA reserves the right to hold such bids in effect for one hundred twenty (120) calendar days from the date of bid opening.

The contract period for construction of the project shall be **THREE HUNDRED (300) CALENDAR DAYS**. Liquidated damages in the amount of **THREE HUNDRED DOLLARS PER CALENDAR DAYS ($300.00)** shall be assessed the contractor if the completion of the Project is delayed beyond the contract time without excuse.

A pre-bid conference will be held at the Rota Ports Manager's Office, Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport at **10:00 a.m., Friday, June 8, 2018** to explain and clarify any questions regarding this project.

Questions should be submitted to the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, in writing, seven (7) days prior to the date designated above for the bid opening.

The apparent low bidder may be subject to a thorough and comprehensive review of its qualifications and Bid Documents to ensure that they are "responsive and responsible." This review will include, but is not necessarily limited to previous project experience, financial capabilities, quality of equipment and personnel, and bonding and insurance. If the apparent low bidder is found not to be "responsive or responsible", their bid will berejected and the next lowest bidder will be evaluated for qualifications.

Each proposal shall be on a form furnished by CPA. The bidders are required to use the bid schedule form on the CD-Rom. It is the Contractors' responsibility to verify and ensure that the drawings are printed without distortion after printing which may affect sheet size and scale of the design details. Prints shall be the actual intended size of 24" by 36" as initially prepared by the Designer of Record.

Each bid shall be accompanied by either a bid bond by U.S. Treasury listed or CPA approved surety company, a certified check, or a cashier's check in the amount not less than **TEN PERCENT (10%)** of the bid price. Checks shall be made payable to the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

CPA reserves the right to reject any or all bid proposals submitted for: (a) any of the reasons set forth in this Notice to Bidders; or (b) any of the reasons set forth in the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations regarding bid rejection or cancellation; or (c) sufficient justification exists that awarding the procurement contract would not be in the best interest of CPA. CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said bids if in its sole opinion to do so would be in CPA's best interest.

All mechanics and laborers for this procurement project shall be paid no less than the minimum wage rate established by the CNMI or the U.S. Secretary of Labor, whichever is higher. A copy of the Department of the Federal Labor Wage Rate Determination is included in Section GP60 of the specifications. The bidder shall take into account minimum wage increases that may be imposed in the CNMI over the life of the Contract and include associated costs in the bid proposal. The EEO requirements, labor provisions, and wage rates are included in the specifications, and bid proposal documents are available for inspection at the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

All bidders shall comply with all Federal requirements under this Federally funded procurement, including but not limited to Buy American Preference, Foreign Trade Restriction, Davis Bacon, Veteran's Preference, Affirmative Action and Government wide Debarment and Suspension and Government wide Requirements for Drug-free Workplace. Further details on all Federal requirements are provided in the specifications.

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY:

/s/ CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
CPA Executive Director

Date: May 16, 2018

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS (CNMI)
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC LANDS (DPL)

Tel.: (670) 234-3751 • Website: www.dpl.gov.mp • Email: dpl@dpl.gov.mp

RFP18 – RED002
SUBMISSION DEADLINE: July 23, 2018

"MANAGAHA ISLAND MASTER CONCESSION OPERATOR"

Governor Ralph DLG. Torres and Lt. Governor Victor B. Hocog, through the Department of Public Lands (DPL), are soliciting sealed proposals from qualified firms interested in being the exclusive master concession operator for service and activities on or relating to Managaha Island.

The RFP instruction and information package (RFP Packet) is available at the DPL office, located on the 2nd Floor of the Joeten Dandan Building, Saipan, during the hours of 7:30am to 4:30pm, Monday through Friday, except holidays. If a hardcopy is preferred, a charge of .50 cents per page will be assessed, however, the full package of the RFP is available to download at www.dpl.gov.mp or can be emailed to anyone interested at no cost. Interested proposers from overseas may request an RFP Packet by email reference **"RFP18-RED002 MANAGAHA CONCESSION".**

Questions from proposing firms regarding the premises and the contents of the RFP Packet must be received, **no later than 4:30 pm on June 29, 2018 ChST** and must be submitted in writing via mail, email or facsimile to Ms. Marianne Concepcion-Teregeyo, Secretary, DPL at the following address:

Department of Public Lands
P.O. Box 500380
Saipan, MP 96950
Telephone number(s): (670) 234-3751/52/53
Facsimile number: (670) 234-3755
Email: mariannet@dpl.gov.mp

Sealed proposals must be marked **"RFP18-RED002 MANAGAHA CONCESSION"**. One (1) original and five (5) copies of sealed proposals must be submitted to the DPL at its address above **no later than 4:00pm ChST, on - July 23, 2018**.

By submitting a proposal, the interested firm agrees to enter into a concession agreement in the form attached to the RFP Packet as Exhibit E. DPL reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and to waive any imperfection in any proposal, if, in its opinion to do so would be in the best interest of public land beneficiaries. All costs associated with preparing a proposal are entirely the responsibility of proposers. All proposals shall become the sole property of DPL.

/s/ Marianne Concepcion –Teregeyo
Secretary, DPL

Nation

Immigrant says US agents seized life savings at airport

TOLEDO, Ohio (AP)—A U.S. citizen who immigrated from Albania has accused U.S. Customs and Border Protection of seizing and keeping his life savings of $58,000 even though he has not been charged with a crime since being strip-searched at an airport last year on a trip back to his native country.

A lawsuit filed against the agency said it missed an April deadline either to return the money or start criminal proceedings. It says 64-year-old Rustem Kazazi was carrying the cash because he wanted to avoid transaction fees and thought it would be safer than trying to withdraw large sums of money in Albania, where he planned to repair a family home and was considering buying a vacation home.

Attorneys for Kazazi, who lives in suburban Cleveland, said the airport seizure highlights a practice civil rights groups have criticized for years — the government's use of civil forfeitures that allows law enforcement to take possessions without indictments or evidence a crime has been committed.

Opponents argue it opens the door for constitutional rights violations.

The Virginia-based Institute for Justice, which is handling the lawsuit filed last week, has previously sued Customs and Border Protection in two forfeiture cases in Texas, including one against a Houston-area nurse traveling to Nigeria to build a medical clinic.

AP
In this May 22, 2018, photo provided by the Institute for Justice in Arlington, Va., Rustem Kazazi poses for a portrait in Cleveland Hopkins International Airport in Cleveland.

In both instances after the lawsuits were filed, the agency returned the money and property without bringing charges.

"We should be convicting people of crimes before we strip them of their property — at a minimum they should first be charged," said Wesley Hottot, an attorney with the organization. "This is an un-American law enforcement tool."

A spokesman for the Customs and Border Protection said the agency doesn't comment on pending lawsuits.

U.S. Attorney General Jeff Sessions has defended his agency's civil asset forfeiture program, which the Justice Department sees as a way to strip suspects of the proceeds of their activities, to deter crime and to compensate crime victims.

But the department's inspector general found weaknesses in the program. It said the department doesn't collect enough data to determine whether the seizures benefit criminal investigations or the extent to which they infringe on civil liberties, according to a report released last year.

Former Attorney General Eric Holder in 2015 restricted the ability of the federal government to take possession of assets seized by local authorities amid concerns that property could be seized without judicial oversight and without the owner ever being charged with a crime.

Kazazi was a police officer before moving with his family to the Cleveland area in 2005. His limited use of English restricted him to jobs such as a parking lot attendant or busboy, often working two or three at a time, the lawsuit said. His wife taught English classes for immigrants. Their son also worked and contributed to the savings, it said.

The airport seizure took place last October when Kazazi was traveling to Albania.

A Transportation Security Administration agent spotted the stacks of $100 bills Kazazi had stuffed into envelopes before boarding his first flight to New Jersey. Kazazi was pulled aside into a private room at the Cleveland airport and strip-searched, the lawsuit said.

He said Customs and Border Protection agents wouldn't provide him with an interpreter or allow him to call his family even though he had trouble understanding their questions.

Entire Hawaii neighborhood vanishes as lava gushes in

HONOLULU (AP)—A neighborhood called Vacationland on Hawaii's Big Island had disappeared by Wednesday as lava poured into two oceanfront subdivisions, smothering hundreds of homes and filling an ocean bay, turning it into new land that now juts into the sea.

Molten rock entirely covered Vacationland and only a few buildings remained in the nearby Kapoho subdivision, officials with the U.S. Geological Survey said.

"The bay is completely filled in and the shoreline is at least 0.8 miles out from its original location," said Geological Survey geologist Wendy Stovall. "Vacationland is gone, there is no evidence of any properties there at all. On the northern end of that, there are just a few homes in the (Kapoho) beach lots area."

Resident Mark Johnson is hopeful that his home on a citrus farm is one of those still standing. His ocean-view property sits on a ridge near the base of Kapoho crater, and he thinks the lava could have missed it.

"Basically we are up on that hill, so we're still OK right now," Johnson said.

But he has resigned himself to the possibility that he could lose his beloved farm, which he can't access even if lava doesn't cover it. The property isn't far from a crater lake that the approaching flow vaporized days before entering his neighborhood.

"I'm kind of at peace, actually," Johnson said of potentially losing his home of 28 years. "I feel that I've had a really great experience."

County officials said the two subdivisions have 279 homes, and most are feared destroyed from the most recent lava flows in the low-laying area.

"Over the course of essentially two days, that entire area was covered by lava," Stovall said.

Molten rock from the erupting Kilauea volcano already has destroyed at least 117 homes in the Lanipuna Gardens and Leilani Estates neighborhoods where lava surfaced more than a month ago. The total number of homes destroyed in the eruption stands at about 400.

Scientists are still recording vigorous volcanic activity. While only one crack in the ground is spewing molten rock and the height of fountaining lava has decreased in recent days, "it's still really impossible to tell," when it will end, Stovall said.

The lava inundation is among the most destructive and costly in volcano property loss in U.S. history. While no one has been killed and only one lava-related injury has been reported, the number of destroyed homes dwarfs other recent American eruptions.

It comes as a volcano erupted in Guatemala on Sunday and left 99 dead and nearly 200 missing.

In Hawaii, previous eruptions have destroyed small towns, but nothing on the scale of this outbreak. Lava flows destroyed homes and other buildings in the same area in 1955 and 1960, but the town of Kapoho was less densely populated at that time.

Between 1983 and 2014, a Kilauea eruption razed homes in and around the town of Kalapana. Over the course of about eight months in 1990, 214 homes were destroyed in that area. One home was lost in a separate 2014 lava flow in the commercial hub of Pahoa.

Even major explosive eruptions like that of Washington state's Mount St. Helens in 1980 didn't result in the same number of homes lost. That volcano and others in the region that have had recent eruptions are very remote with few people living nearby.

At Kilauea's summit, increased earthquake activity has led to explosive eruptions, some of which have shot rock and ash high into the air.

"We expect larger explosions will continue at the summit," Stovall said Wednesday.

Military base calls immigration agents on pizza delivery man

NEW YORK (AP)—He went from delivering pizza to being detained by immigration officers.

A guard at an Army garrison in Brooklyn called Immigration and Customs Enforcement on a pizza delivery man who made a delivery there Friday. Now, Ecuadorean immigrant Pablo Villavicencio is in ICE custody pending removal from the country, agency spokeswoman Rachael Yong Yow said.

"Villavicencio-Calderon was detained by military police officers and turned over to ICE," Yong Yow said.

Villavicencio's wife, Sandra Chica, said he went to deliver pizza to Fort Hamilton last week and was asked for identification by the guard who received him at the gate.

Villavicencio, who worked at Nonna Delia's pizzeria, in Queens, produced a city identification card, but the official told him he wanted to see a state driver's license. When Villavicencio did not produce one, the guard called ICE, his wife said.

"This is unhuman," Chica said during a phone interview. "He was not committing any crime. He is a father who is working for his daughters. Every day our daughters ask me why their dad is not coming home."

Chica, who was born in Colombia and moved to the U.S. a decade ago, said she is a U.S. citizen. The couple has two daughters, who are 3 and 2 years old and were born in the U.S.

The three of them attended a press conference in front of the army base Wednesday along with Brooklyn Borough President Eric Adams and city Councilman Justin Brannan. Both politicians said they were seeking answers from Fort Hamilton.

"Is our city, state and nation any safer today because they took a pizza delivery guy off the streets?" asked Brannan.

Fort Hamilton did not immediately respond to a call and an email requesting comment. Yong Yow, the ICE spokeswoman, said that in March 2010 Villavicencio was granted voluntary departure by an immigration judge but failed to depart by July, as ordered.

"As such, his voluntary departure order became a final order of removal," she said.

Chica said this was not the first time Villavicencio delivered pizza at the base.

"What prompted them to call ICE?" she asked. "They only care about statistics, one more deported man. They don't care about the impact this will have on us."

Asia

Myanmar, UN sign pact on initial steps for Rohingya return

AP
United Nation's special representative for children and armed conflict, Virginia Gamba, speaks during a press conference, in Yangon, Myanmar, Tuesday, May 29, 2018, her first visit to the country.

YANGON, Myanmar (AP)—Myanmar and U.N. agencies signed an agreement Wednesday that could eventually lead to the return of some of the 700,000 Rohingya Muslims who fled brutal persecution by the country's security forces and are now crowded into makeshift camps in Bangladesh.

The memorandum of understanding promises to establish a "framework of cooperation" that aims to create conditions for "voluntary, safe, dignified and sustainable" repatriation of Rohingya refugees but does not address Myanmar's denial of citizenship for the minority.

Myanmar's government said it hoped the pact would hasten repatriation, but rights groups still doubt it will let many Rohingya return or can guarantee the safety of those who do. Myanmar's statement didn't mention Rohingya, reflecting the government and the Burmese majority's insistence there is no such ethnic group in Myanmar. Instead it referred to them as "displaced persons."

Myanmar's security forces have been accused of rape, killing, torture and the burning of Rohingya homes in western Rakhine state, where most Rohingya lived. The U.N. and U.S. have described the army crackdown that began in August last year as "ethnic cleansing."

Predominantly Buddhist Myanmar and Bangladesh agreed in November to begin repatriating Rohingya. But refugees feared their lives would be at risk in Myanmar without international monitoring while Myanmar insisted they have identity documents, which most Rohingya have been denied.

Knut Ostby, U.N. Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator in Myanmar, said the agreement is an important first step toward resolving the crisis.

"There is a lot of work to be done. This task should not be underestimated," Ostby said. "We are talking about approximately 700,000 people who don't only have to return, but the conditions have to be right for them to return: the conditions both in terms of their identity in society, in terms of their safety and also in terms of services, livelihoods, a place to live, infrastructure."

The U.N. has said the agreement provides for its refugee and development agencies to be given access to Rakhine state.

It said that will allow the refugee agency to assess the situation and provide information to refugees about conditions in their areas of origin so that they can better decide whether they want to return.

The Myanmar government statement said assistance from the U.N. agencies would assist the work it has already started toward repatriation. It highlighted that it had cooperated with the U.N. a quarter century earlier in repatriating 230,000 "displaced persons"—Rohingya—who had fled violence in Rakhine to Bangladesh.

Rights groups remain pessimistic that the safe return of Rohingya refugees will ever be possible.

They point to a lack of firm commitments from Myanmar and its decades of hostility toward a minority that was denied citizenship by a 1982 law that excluded them from a list of recognized ethnic groups in the majority Buddhist nation.

"How will the Burmese government guarantee these people will not face again persecution?" said Kyaw Win, executive director of Burma Human Rights Network. "It is very politically convenient for the Burmese government to sign this agreement, and also never commit."

Some 125,000 of the Rohingya who remain in Myanmar are living in camps where their movement is restricted after being forced from their villages in 2012 by a wave of violence led by radical Buddhists and security forces.

"There's still been no movement to ensure Rohingya have equal access to full citizenship," said Matthew Smith, the head of advocacy group Fortify Rights. "Discourse around repatriation now unfortunately appears to be attempt by authorities to distract from mass atrocities and crimes taken place."

ASIAN BRIEFS

Abe to press Trump to raise issue of abducted at Kim summit

TOKYO (AP)—Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, unable to meet North Korea's leader himself, is heading to Washington to try to make sure President Donald Trump doesn't overlook Japan's security and other concerns at the unprecedented U.S.-North Korea summit next week. Abe will have less than two hours to make his points to Trump at the White House on Thursday, before both go to Canada for a G-7 summit on Friday and Saturday, and the American president then flies to Singapore for his June 12 meeting with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un. Japan, which relied on the U.S. for its post-World War II diplomacy and security, has been absent in the recent burst of engagement with North Korea. Chinese President Xi Jinping and South Korean President Moon Jae-in have both met Kim twice, as Abe waits his turn to raise Japan's concerns directly. "I want to make sure to be on the same page with President Trump ahead of the first ever U.S.-North Korea summit so we can push forward nuclear and missile issues, and most importantly the abduction problem, and make for a successful summit," Abe told reporters before leaving for the airport.

Trump, Kim set to meet the morning of June 12 in Singapore

WASHINGTON (AP)—The White House says President Donald Trump's meeting with North Korea's Kim Jong Un is set for 9 a.m. on June 12 in Singapore, which is 9 p.m. on June 11 on the U.S. East Coast. White House press secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders said Monday that planning continues for the historic summit in Singapore and that negotiators from the United States and North Korea are meeting at the Demilitarized Zone to lay the groundwork. Trump says the goal for the summit is denuclearizing the Korean Peninsula. The full agenda for the summit hasn't yet been announced. Sanders called the letter that top North Korean official Kim Yong Chol delivered from Kim Jong Un to Trump on Friday "interesting" but wouldn't comment on its contents.

Duterte threatens to use emergency rule 'to the hilt'

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte threatened Wednesday to resort to emergency powers and enforce them "to the hilt" to deal with relentless criticism over his human rights record, crimes and government wrongdoing.

Duterte, who placed the southern third of the archipelago nation last year under martial law to battle Muslim militants, said "there's no difference actually between martial law and a declaration of national emergency."

"Even with this meager emergency power, I will use it to the hilt (to) put things in order," the brash-talking president said in a late-night news conference upon arrival from a South Korean trip.

He has threatened before to resort to authoritarian rule nationwide if lawlessness worsens beyond control.

Looking exasperated, Duterte warned that he would place problematic government agencies under his office so he could supervise them directly. He has publicly fired several officials for alleged corruption, excessive foreign trips and other unspecified wrongdoings.

"I'm warning all of you criminals, all, in government or outside of it. I will make radical changes in the days to come," he said. "For those offices which could no longer be put under control, I will place you under the office of the president. I'll be the one you'll face every day."

It's unclear what triggered the volatile leader's latest outburst.

The 73-year-old former city mayor drew widespread condemnation at home after he kissed a married Filipina on the lips in front of thousands of Filipino workers in a town hall meeting in Seoul.

He has repeatedly lashed out at U.S. and European officials, U.N. rights experts and watchdogs for raising alarm over his bloody crackdown against illegal drugs. His administration has also been blamed for rising inflation after it pushed through with a government tax reform package and for being soft on China in South China Sea disputes.

During the news conference, Duterte asked before a reporter had a chance to speak, "What is your question, about the kissing?" The president went on to explain that the controversial act was "pure showbiz" done without malice and aimed at entertaining the huge Filipino crowd.

"That's my style ... There is nothing wrong in a simple kiss (and) you cause an uproar. They're just envious," the president said, although he acknowledged that he may be confronted by his two daughters when he returns home.

The kissing episode sparked another uproar when an official and one of Duterte's fierce backers, Mocha Uson, uploaded a video that showed late Sen. Benigno Aquino Jr. being kissed by a woman on board a plane shortly before he was assassinated by soldiers at Manila airport in 1983. Aquino's killing sparked protests that ousted then President Ferdinand Marcos three years later.

Aquino's daughter and popular actress Kris Aquino slammed Uson in emotional remarks and warned she would confront her if Uson did anything that would besmirch the reputation of her parents, who are revered pro-democracy champions in the Philippines.

World

At Guatemala volcano, time running out for rescue chances

SAN MIGUEL LOS LOTES, Guatemala (AP)—Emergency crews pulled more bodies from what remained of villages devastated by the eruption of Guatemala's Volcano of Fire on Wednesday, but time was quickly running out to find survivors as the confirmed death toll rose to 99 with nearly 200 still missing.

Thousands of people displaced by the eruption have sought refuge in shelters, many of them with dead or missing loved ones and facing an uncertain future, unable to return to homes destroyed by the volcano.

Firefighters said the chance of finding anyone alive amid the still-steaming terrain was practically nonexistent 72 hours after Sunday's volcanic explosion. Thick gray ash covering the stricken region was hardened by rainfall, making it even more difficult to dig through the mud, rocks and debris that reached to the rooftops of homes.

"Nobody is going to be able to get them out or say how many are buried here," Efrain Suarez said, standing amid the smoking holes dotting what used to be the village of San Miguel Los Lotes on the flanks of the mountain.

"The bodies are already charred," the 59-year-old truck driver said. "And if heavy machinery comes in they will be torn apart."

Once a verdant collection of canyons, hillsides and farms, the land is now a barren moonscape. Rescuers poked metal rods into the ground, sending clouds of smoke pouring into the air in a sign of the superhot temperatures still remaining below the surface, which firefighters said reached as high as 750 to 1,300 degrees Fahrenheit (400 to 700 degrees Celsius) in some places.

AP

Rescue workers remove piles of ash spewed by the Volcan de Fuego, or "Volcano of Fire," eruption, in El Rodeo, Guatemala, Wednesday, June 6, 2018.

At a shelter in the Murray D. Lincoln school in the city of Escuintla, about 10 miles (15 kilometers) from the volcano's peak, Alfonso Castillo said he and his extended family of 30 had lived on a shared plot in Los Lotes where each family had its own home.

The volcano is one of Central America's most active, and everyone was accustomed to rumbling and spewing smoke, so at first nothing seemed abnormal Sunday, the 33-year-old farm worker said. But then a huge cloud of ash came pouring out.

"In a matter of three or four minutes the village disappeared," Castillo said. It was smothered in what he described as a "sea" of muck that came crashing into homes, inundating people, pets and wildlife.

The family holed up in a house that heated up "like a boiler" inside, he said, then made their way onto the roof and then to the upper story of another, concrete home. After a cellphone call to Castillo's brother, rescuers arrived and took the family to safety.

But the life they knew was gone.

"Nobody wants to go back there. My children say they would rather be in the streets. ... There are many people who are helping us, but we have absolutely nothing. We could not get anything out," Castillo said. "For us, there is no tomorrow."

Still, there were glimmers of a return to some semblance of normality as Guatemalans across the country donated supplies and local volunteers reached out to those in need.

In an open-air patio at the shelter, people displaced by the volcano sat on plastic chairs as student hair stylists gave them free haircuts.

Naomi Diaz of the Ciraiz Beauty Academy said they were moved to help because they saw people who had lost everything. She said she cut the hair of one woman whose hair had been so badly scorched she was unable to comb it.

"This can serve as a tiny bit of consolation for the people," Diaz said.

A day after a new evacuation was ordered due to increasing activity by the volcano, a red alert remained in place for the departments of Escuintla, Sacatepequez and Chimaltenango, and people were advised not to linger near the affected zones.

The country's seismology and volcanology institute warned of new flows descending Wednesday afternoon through canyons on the volcano's western slope toward the Pantaleon River, carrying boulders and tree trunks.

Authorities also warned that rains had increased the chance of deadly slides of ash, mud and debris.

The recovery effort was slow, with local media reports saying nine bodies were recovered Wednesday. Associated Press journalists witnessed the recovery of at least eight bodies, including five stretchers loaded with body bags in Los Lotes.

A man whose rescue in the town of El Rodeo was shown on video as he was pulled out caked in mud with third-degree burns over 50 percent of his body died at a hospital Wednesday, the country's Social Security Institute said.

The official death toll, which was increased to 99 on Wednesday, was expected to rise more, with at least 197 people listed as missing. About 3,500 were in shelters, many with their homes and livelihoods destroyed.

President Jimmy Morales traveled to El Rodeo by helicopter Wednesday to survey the destruction.

South Sudan's latest civil war atrocities kept out of sight

KINSHASA, Congo (AP)—The accounts are horrific. A young girl strangled and gang-raped. Children burned alive as government soldiers blocked the door of their hut and set it aflame.

These are some of the atrocities revealed in 14 reports, seen by The Associated Press, that have not yet been released by the independent body charged with monitoring a failed cease-fire imposed in December in South Sudan, where civil war is now well into its fifth year.

The reports should have been released last month at a meeting led by the Joint Monitoring and Evaluation Commission but South Sudan's government did not attend, preventing the accounts of abuses from being made public because there was not a quorum.

"The reports contain evidence that soldiers continue to kill, rape and destroy property. The decision to keep these ongoing atrocity crimes secret sends the wrong message," Jehanne Henry, senior Africa researcher for Human Rights Watch, told the AP. Only five such reports have been released this year.

The African Union and the East African regional bloc that mediates South Sudan's peace talks should take action, said Edmund Yakani, executive director for the local advocacy group Community Empowerment for Progress Organization.

"Silence on the violations only encourages further violations," he said.

While people attending the meeting said copies of the reports on atrocities were distributed to diplomats from the United States, the United Nations, Britain and elsewhere, none have released them publicly or made public the reports of abuses.

South Sudan's government didn't respond to multiple requests for comment on why it didn't attend last month's meeting.

The unpublished reports describe violations by both government and opposition forces but most of the accounts blame government troops for instigating attacks and deliberately targeting civilians.

During an attack in February on a school in the town of Modit, children fled into a hut to hide. Government soldiers blocked the door and set it on fire, burning the children to death, said one report.

A young girl fetching water from a river in the town of Yei was strangled before she and her mother were gang-raped by government soldiers, another report said. More than 30 cases of sexual assault were recorded in Yei and surrounding areas in the three months following December's cease-fire agreement.

And in the nearby town of Morobo, a woman was raped and beaten so badly that she lost sight in one eye. A disabled woman, unable to flee the fighting, was thrown into a burning house by government soldiers, the report said.

WORLD BRIEFS

Toll from Baghdad blasts rises to 16 dead, 35 wounded

BAGHDAD (AP)—Iraqi security officials say the toll from explosions that tore through a mosque in Baghdad has climbed to 16 dead and 35 wounded. The officials provided the updated toll Thursday on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to speak to reporters. A government statement said Wednesday's explosions occurred at a weapons depot in Sadr City. It says it is investigating. The neighborhood is named after the family of Shiite cleric Muqtada al-Sadr, whose bloc won the most seats in last month's elections. The vast, working-class district is a stronghold of his supporters, who battled U.S. troops in the years after the 2003 invasion. No one bloc secured a majority in the May 12 elections, and the process of forming a new government could drag on for months.

Sex abuse panel seeks witness statement from Prince Charles

LONDON (AP)—Prince Charles has been asked to give a witness statement to a public inquiry into how abuse allegations against a pedophile bishop were handled. The request for a statement from Charles and his private secretary was made public Wednesday during an Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse hearing. The inquiry is looking into the way abuse allegations against ex-bishop Peter Ball were dealt with. He was sentenced to 32 months in prison in 2015 for numerous sexual offenses going back to the 1970s. Inquiry lawyer Fiona Scolding said Charles' lawyers have indicated he is willing to assist and have raised a number of issues being reviewed. "This has led to lengthy and complex discussions and we are currently considering the latest points they have raised. We hope to be able to provide an update to core participants on this in the next couple of weeks," she said. Charles had exchanged letters with Ball, whose diocese includes Charles' country estate, Highgrove. The contents of the letters have not been made public.

Italy's new populist government wins 2nd confidence vote

ROME (AP)—Italy's new populist government has easily won its second, and final, mandatory confidence vote in Parliament's lower chamber. The result of the mandatory vote Wednesday among lawmakers in the Chamber of Deputies on Premier Giuseppe Conte's coalition was 350-236, with 35 abstentions. A political novice, Conte leads the euroskeptic coalition of the 5-Star Movement, which considers itself anti-establishment, and the right-wing, north-based League party. On Tuesday, Conte won a confidence vote in the Senate. A law professor, Conte was a compromise choice when neither 5-Star leader Luigi Di Maio nor League leader Matteo Salvini allowed the other to be premier after March 4 elections proved inconclusive. Their forces command a slim but workable parliamentary majority. Conte makes his debut in the international arena at this week's G7 summit in Canada.

Off The Wall

30-year-old finally leaves parents' home with help

CAMILLUS, N.Y. (AP)—The 30-year-old man whose eviction from his parents' suburban home drew national attention finally left Friday, hours before a court-ordered deadline, with financial help from right-wing radio host and conspiracy theorist Alex Jones.

Michael Rotondo honked and waved to reporters as he pulled out of the driveway of his parents' split-level ranch in Camillus, New York, 2 ½ hours before the noon deadline set by a judge last week.

He said his parents had said goodbye, "more or less," and got his rumbling station wagon running after some false starts, according to the Post-Standard of Syracuse.

Rotondo had avoided TV crews staked out on the upstate New York road earlier Friday morning by leaving from the back, but returned around 9:30 a.m. in the passenger seat of a pickup truck. He loaded a cooler and garbage bags full of items into the truck then dealt with the station wagon, which has a broken coolant system, according to the newspaper.

"I gotta get going before that thing blows up," he said.

Mark and Christina Rotondo brought the court case against their son after several eviction letters offering money and other help were ignored. They offered him $1,100 "so you can find a place to stay" and nudged him to get a job.

"There are jobs available even for those with a poor work history like you," one letter they sent him reads. "Get one—you have to work!"

A May 22 court appearance drew national attention. Rotondo refused the judge's request to work things out directly with his parents, who sat quietly nearby. He failed to persuade the judge to grant him another six months with his parents.

Michael Rotondo, 30, prepares to leave his parents' house in Camillus, N.Y., Friday, June 1, 2018. AP

Panda takes excursion

BEIJING (AP)—A highly social giant panda out for a stroll surprised and delighted residents of a town in the southwestern Chinese province of Sichuan.

The panda was first spotted wandering among houses in Wenchuan county on Thursday, seemingly in search of food. She strolled beside a vegetable garden, trotted across a dirt road and climbed a tree, seemingly unfazed by the attention she drew from a large group of onlookers.

Researchers at the China Conservation and Research Center for the Giant Panda confirmed that the panda was Zhenzhen, an 11-year-old female raised in captivity and recently released into the wild as part of a special breeding project.

After allowing her several hours to explore, researchers returned Zhenzhen to the Wolong Shenshuping Panda Base by mid-afternoon.

"When she's in an amorous mood, we let her out of the enclosure, hoping that she will mate with wild pandas," Wu Daifu, director of the Hetaoping panda training base, said in a telephone interview with China Central Television.

Zhenzhen was set free in the Tiantaishan Area of the Wolong National Nature Reserve on March 5. Freed pandas sometimes wander into settlements near the reserve, Wu said.

Back at the panda base, Zhenzhen will be looked after by staff members optimistic that she may already be pregnant.

IN LOVING MEMORY OF
JASON JANG

Also known as Jang, Chuen Huei
Dec 19, 1958 – May 26, 2018

Jason is survived by his wife Celia, daughters Jennifer and Emily Jang, son-in-law Scott Helgesen and extended family.

Funeral Services will be announced at a later date.

Thank you for your thoughts and prayers.
Celia and Family

JOINT FIRST DEATH ANNIVERSARY

†Dolores B. Castro †Leonora A. Castro

We, the family, would like to invite all our relatives and friends to join us in prayers as we commemorate our dearly beloved's passing unto eternal life. Daily Mass of Intention will be celebrated every 6:00 PM except Saturday 6:00 A.M., Sunday 7:00 A.M. & 9:00 A.M. at San Roque Church from Thursday, June 14, 2018 through Friday, June 22, 2018.

On the final day, Friday, June 22, 2018 Mass of Intention will be offered at 6:00 PM at San Roque Church.

Please join us in prayers

Si Yuus Ma'ase & Thank You
THE FAMILY

FIRST YEAR DEATH ANNIVERSARY

†JESUS AGUON SABLAN
"Jesus'Nia"

We, the family would like to invite all our relatives and friends to join us as we commemorate the first year death anniversary of our beloved husband/father/grandfather and great grandfather unto eternal life.
Daily masses will be celebrated as follows:

DAY	DATE	TIME	CHURCH
Sunday	June 10, 2018	10:00am	St. Jude Church
Monday	June 11, 2018	6:00pm	St. Jude Church
Tuesday	June 12, 2018	6:00am	Mt. Carmel Church
Wednesday	June 13, 2018	6:00pm	St. Jude Church
Thursday	June 14, 2018	6:00pm	St. Jude Church
Friday	June 15, 2018	6:00pm	St. Jude Church
Saturday	June 16, 2018	6:00am	Mt. Carmel Church
Sunday	June 17, 2018	10:00am	St. Jude Church
Monday	June 18, 2018	6:00pm	St. Jude Church

On the final day, Monday, June 18th, an appreciation dinner will be served at the Sablan Residence in Finasisu.
Please join us in our prayers and dinner.

Si Yu'us Ma'ase ginen as
Marilyn M. Sablan and Children

Science & Technology

Among password programs, Dashlane wins the race

By HAROLD GLICKEN
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

As password programs go, Dashlane has a lot going for it. Dashlane will generate complex passwords, remember them and store sign-on fields as they're typed. I've used it for years, but when I tried to install it on a new computer, it failed miserably.

I was all set to trash Dashlane in this column, until I tried its competitors, Password Keeper among them. Dashlane wins the race.

Like Dashlane, Password Keeper will remember user names and passwords, but it takes a bit more effort to record the passwords and actually fill in the fields, and it doesn't always work. It crashed my PC a few times, too. With Dashlane, you enter your password once per bootup. Keeper requires a master password each time Microsoft Edge (the browser it supports) is launched. Both support second-factor authorization. I used a device called a Yubikey for second-factor authentication. The Ubikey is a tiny USB device that's programmed easily on a PC or Mac. The master password is entered, followed by inserting the Yubikey.

I lost it with Dashlane's tech support—offered by email and chat only—when they failed to understand that I knew my master password and had my two-factor authentication device. They totally misunderstood it when I told them the sign-on screen would freeze on the new computer.

Perhaps there's a language issue, but all the techs who handled my case seemed not to understand why my master sign-on and Yubikey wouldn't open the program.

We went round-and-round for about a week—third-level support wasn't much better than primary support. At one point I was asked to submit my photo and drivers license along with a string of numbers to help recover a master password I knew worked.

So, I'm making do with Password Keeper. It's a pain to insert all my sign-ons and, despite the security it offers, the easily remembered passwords I had set up on Dashlane. Which made me think—suppose I had let Dashlane generate complicated passwords, like 4h7jl8989qqwe. I would be in an even worse place than I am now.

Most password programs have free versions. It pays to try them out. Meanwhile, I'm typing my sign-ons—as I remember them. If I remember them.

And tomorrow I'll start dealing with Dashlane support again. After trying the competition, I think it's worth the effort.

Honolulu leaders approve 1st ride-hailing price cap in US

HONOLULU (AP)—Honolulu leaders approved a measure Wednesday to limit prices that ride-hailing services like Uber and Lyft can charge during peak demand, a cap that the companies say would be the first restriction of its kind in the United States.

The measure would prevent "surge pricing" if increased rates are higher than the maximum fare set by the city. Honolulu attorneys will review the measure before it goes to Mayor Kirk Caldwell, who would have 10 days to sign it into law, allow it to become law without his signature or veto it.

Uber sent emails to customers across the island of Oahu, which is where the rule would apply, urging them to oppose the rules that would impose "outdated taxi-style requirements on rideshare."

Oahu taxi drivers have been at odds with those who drive for mobile apps that connect riders with nearby drivers. Taxi companies complain that companies such as Uber and Lyft create an unfair playing field because they face fewer restrictions.

Uber driver Joshua Oh drives in Honolulu on Wednesday, June 6, 2018. AP

Uber has been told the city hasn't received any consumer complaints about surge pricing, said Tabatha Chow, the company's senior operations manager for Hawaii. Honolulu has the highest taxi prices in the nation and Uber is 40 percent cheaper, she told council members Wednesday.

Surge pricing only happens during peak times such as rush hour, weekend nights and big events, she said, adding that fares go back down when more drivers are on the road.

If Uber and Lyft rides are cheaper, then why do they need to use surge pricing, asked Robert Deluze, owner of Robert's Taxis, who said ride-hailing companies have hurt the taxi business.

Councilwoman Kymberly Marcos Pine, who voted for the limits, said she was concerned to hear that U.S. Navy sailors getting off ships in Pearl Harbor recently were charged as much as $221 to get to Waikiki when a cab ride was $44. As the wife of a sailor, she said she wants to protect service members from being "price gouged."

Uber said in a fact sheet that surge pricing gives drivers the incentive to work in busier areas, which lowers wait times for riders and ensures reliability.

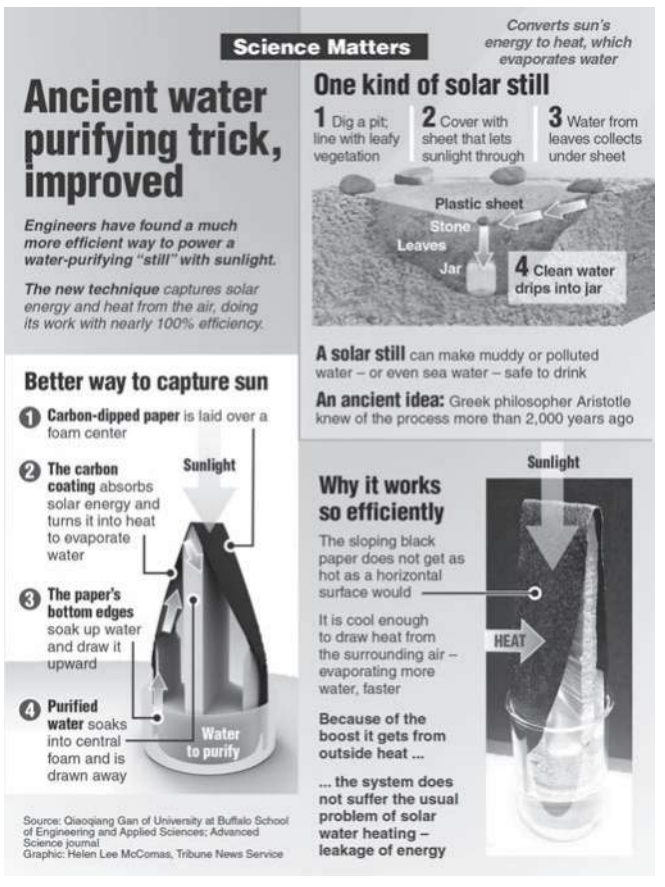
Riders and drivers who submitted testimony opposing the measure said taxis aren't as reliable or affordable as ride-hailing companies.

Uber driver Lisa Gonzales wrote that she drives to help support her family of six. During surge pricing, passengers have the option to accept or reject costs, she said, and that it's based on supply and demand.

Uber and Lyft officials testified in City Council committees last month that the cap on surge pricing would be the first such restriction on the companies in the country, the Honolulu Star-Advertiser reported.

"When demand for rides is greater than the number of drivers on the road, passengers may pay an extra percentage on top of the base ride amount," Lyft said in a statement explaining its "Prime Time" pricing.

A $6 ride would become a $9 ride during Prime Time pricing of 50 percent, the statement said, adding that it "only adds a percentage to the ride subtotal, which is calculated before any other fees or additional amounts."


Science Matters
Converts sun's energy to heat, which evaporates water
Ancient water purifying trick, improved
Engineers have found a much more efficient way to power a water-purifying "still" with sunlight.
The new technique captures solar energy and heat from the air, doing its work with nearly 100% efficiency.
One kind of solar still
1 Dig a pit; line with leafy vegetation
2 Cover with sheet that lets sunlight through
3 Water from leaves collects under sheet
Plastic sheet
Stone
Leaves
Jar
4 Clean water drips into jar
A solar still can make muddy or polluted water – or even sea water – safe to drink
An ancient idea: Greek philosopher Aristotle knew of the process more than 2,000 years ago
Better way to capture sun
1 Carbon-dipped paper is laid over a foam center
2 The carbon coating absorbs solar energy and turns it into heat to evaporate water
3 The paper's bottom edges soak up water and draw it upward
4 Purified water soaks into central foam and is drawn away
Sunlight
Water to purify
Why it works so efficiently
The sloping black paper does not get as hot as a horizontal surface would
It is cool enough to draw heat from the surrounding air – evaporating more water, faster
Because of the boost it gets from outside heat ...
... the system does not suffer the usual problem of solar water heating – leakage of energy
Sunlight
HEAT
Source: Qiaoqiang Gan of University at Buffalo School of Engineering and Applied Sciences; Advanced Science journal
Graphic: Helen Lee McComas, Tribune News Service

TECH Q & A Looking for causes of a PC slowdown

By STEVE ALEXANDER
STAR TRIBUNE (MINNEAPOLIS)

Q: I recently noticed that all the Microsoft Office 2016 programs on my Windows 10 PC had slowed down. None of the programs open quickly, and the first Outlook e-mail, Excel spreadsheet or Word document also takes a long time to load.

I have eight gigabytes of RAM (computer chip memory) and 813 gigabytes of available hard-disk space, so memory shouldn't be the problem. I ran the Malwarebytes Premium and McAfee Total Protection software several times and they didn't discover anything wrong. A Microsoft technician reinstalled the Office software, but that only helped for two days. What's wrong?

A: I think your PC slowdown is caused by two competing antivirus programs rather than by a flaw in Microsoft Office.

Malwarebytes Premium and McAfee Total Protection are both running constantly on your PC and both are trying to do the same job. As a result, they are competing for processor time and memory capacity and slowing down other programs, such as Office (see tinyurl.com/y8vczc4e).

This is a relatively new problem because, until last year, Malwarebytes was only a security accessory program, not a replacement for antivirus software such as McAfee. The for-pay version, Malwarebytes Premium, ran constantly to provide proactive protection against malware, but it didn't interfere with antivirus software.

But now that's changed. Malwarebytes Premium has been given more capability and is being marketed as a replacement for antivirus programs (see tinyurl.com/y8dg4l6v).

Note that this interference problem doesn't exist for the free version of Malwarebytes, which is a remedial program rather than a protective one. It runs only when you activate it _ and only long enough to scan the PC for malware.

There are two possible solutions: Choose only one antivirus program, either McAfee or Malwarebytes Premium. Or keep using McAfee and downgrade to the noninterfering free version of Malwarebytes.

Q: You recently offered suggestions about storing passwords (see tinyurl.com/y8ym43fe), all of them involving some risk. But you didn't mention another possible solution, which is storing passwords in a Microsoft Word document that has been encrypted and can only be opened with a password. Isn't that a safer alternative?

A: The solution you suggest comes with considerable risk.

Why? If you store your passwords in an ordinary Word document, and they are "stolen" by a hacker, you still have the document containing the passwords. You can go back to every website or service you use, let yourself in with your existing compromised password, then change your password. That locks out the hacker who stole your original passwords.

But if you store your passwords in an encrypted Word file, then lose the password that unlocks the file, you have permanently lost all your passwords and all hope of ever using the websites and accounts. You would have to create new accounts with new passwords. I can't recommend your solution, but those interested can see tinyurl.com/y8fnzvbl.

Life & Style

Underwood makes history again, Shelton wins top CMT Award

Carrie Underwood continued to make history as the most decorated act at the CMT Music Awards with 18 wins, while Blake Shelton walked away with the night's top prize.

Shelton, the only person to win two awards Wednesday, won video of the year for "I'll Name the Dogs" at the Bridgestone Arena in Nashville, Tennessee.

"I've been doing this for 18 years. I have been making records and luckily enough you guys have accepted them," said Shelton, who also won male video of the year. "It's been a crazy ride."

Underwood won female video of the year for the Ludacris-assisted song, "The Champion," also giving the rapper-actor his first CMT Award.

"Thank you God for you guys—the fans," Underwood said. "Thank you Ludacris for wanting to inspire."

Ludacris didn't attend the show, but others from outside of country music were in the house, from Kelly Clarkson to Backstreet Boys, who both performed at the show.

The boy band also picked up an award, winning CMT performance of the year for the Florida Georgia Line-featured version of their classic hit, "Everybody," from the "CMT Crossroads" TV special.

AP

Carrie Underwood accepts the female video of the year for "The Champion" at the CMT Music Awards at the Bridgestone Arena on Wednesday, June 6, 2018, in Nashville, Tenn.

"Seriously, so who would have thought?" BSB's Brian Littrell said of winning an award for their 20-year-old song.

"We're everything because of y'all," FGL's Brian Kelley said to the fans.

Another duet—Kane Brown and Lauran Alaina's "What Ifs"—won the former classmates collaborative video of the year.

"This is my first award I've ever won. It's an amazing feeling," Brown said.

Little Big Town—who hosted the show for the first time—won group video of the year and performed their funky single, "Summer Fever," which featured colorful lights and disco balls onstage.

Underwood, per usual, was a vocal powerhouse as she sang "Cry Pretty," earning of the night's loudest applause.

Erotic French novel wins this year's $10,000 Albertine Prize

NEW YORK (AP)—An experimental novel about a narrator's erotic past has won a $10,000 prize.

Anne Garreta's "Not One Day" received the Albertine Prize on Wednesday.

Co-presented by the Cultural Services of the French Embassy and chosen by readers in the U.S., the award honors a contemporary work of French literature.

"Not One Day" was translated by Emma Ramadan and judges praised the book as "breathtakingly written." Drawing upon her own past, Garreta completed one chapter per day.

The Albertine Prize is named for one the central characters in Marcel Proust's "In Search of Lost Time."

In new lawsuit, porn star says ex-lawyer was Trump's puppet

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Porn actress Stormy Daniels says her former lawyer was a "puppet" for President Donald Trump and worked with the president's personal attorney to get her to appear on Fox News and falsely deny a sexual tryst with Trump, according to a lawsuit filed Wednesday.

Daniels, who has said she had sex with a married Trump in 2006 and is fighting to invalidate a nondisclosure agreement she signed days before the 2016 election, alleges her former attorney, Keith Davidson, was secretly working with Trump's attorney, Michael Cohen.

The lawsuit, filed in Los Angeles against Davidson and Cohen, alleges that after a tabloid story emerged in January about Daniels' relationship with Trump, the two lawyers planned for her to appear on Sean Hannity's show on Fox News and falsely deny the tryst.

Text messages attached to the lawsuit show a back-and-forth between Cohen and Davidson as they discuss scheduling the interview, which ultimately did not happen.

"I have tentatively scheduled for Hannity tonight. Call me after your trial," one of the text messages from Cohen said.

After Davidson told him Daniels couldn't make it and proposed rescheduling for the next day, Cohen insisted it had to happen that day because postponing it could lead to more attention in another news cycle.

Hours later, Cohen texted Davidson that "the wise men all believe the story is dying and don't think it's smart for her to do any interviews."

Trump commutes term of Kardashian-championed drug offender

WASHINGTON (AP)—Flexing his clemency powers once again, President Donald Trump on Wednesday commuted the life sentence of a woman whose cause was championed by reality TV star Kim Kardashian West.

"BEST NEWS EVER!!!!" was the exuberant Twitter response from Kardashian West, who visited the White House last week to press the case.

Alice Marie Johnson, 63, had spent more than two decades behind bars, serving life without parole for drug offenses. She was released hours after the White House announcement and ran into her family members' arms.

Michael Scholl, a member of Johnson's legal team, said she was released just before 6 p.m. from federal prison in Aliceville, Alabama. Footage from local news station WVTM-13 showed Johnson running toward her family, throwing her arms wide-open and embracing them in front of a crowd of onlookers.

"Everybody was crying and hugging," Scholl said.

"I'm just so thankful. I feel like my life is starting over again," Johnson said moments after her release, calling Kardashian West an "angel" and thanking Trump "for giving me another chance at life and restoring me to my family."

Unlike a pardon, the commutation will not erase Johnson's conviction, only end her sentence.

Trump's decision, his latest inspired by a celebrity champion, comes amid a flurry of recent pardons issued by the president. He says he's considering a long list of other clemency actions for those famous and not, including former Illinois Gov. Rod Blagojevich, who is serving 14 years in prison for corruption, and celebrity homemaker Martha Stewart, who served about five months on charges connected to an insider trading case.

Trump has been working outside the traditional pardon process usually overseen by the Justice Department, and has appeared to favor cases that catch his attention—because they've been championed by friends, celebrities or conservative media, or involve people he sees as rivals. Trump has also been drawn to cases in which he believes prosecutors may have been motivated by politics—situations that may remind him of his own predicament at the center of special counsel Robert Mueller's investigation into Russian election meddling.

Grandma-to-be can't muster enthusiasm she wants to feel

DEAR ABBY: My daughter-in-law, "Eden," is married to my daughter. Eden is now pregnant via artificial insemination. I will never meet the donor and know almost nothing about him. Could this be why I don't have the enthusiasm for this pregnancy that I should have, since the baby will be my first grandchild?

I feel guilty that I'm not excited. I'm wondering if it's because there is no blood connection, but neither would there be if the baby were adopted. Eden is due in a month. We live close by, and I need to generate some enthusiasm. Any suggestions?

GRANDMA-IN-WAITING

DEAR GRANDMA: Yes. Start by doing all the things you would if you WERE excited about this grandchild. Be as participatory as your daughter and daughter-in-law will allow. If you do, while I can't guarantee that you will feel a bond with the baby, your chances of forming one will be greater. And please stop feeling guilty. Relationships take time to build, and this is no exception.

DEAR ABBY: My husband and I are facing a big decision: whether to move to a better school district for our daughter. The one we're in doesn't rate high, and yes, we can afford to move to a more elite area. So what is holding us back? Our wonderful neighbors!

They are our best friends. Our husbands are close, and it's the same with our kids—even the dogs. We vacation together and take turns carpooling to school in the mornings. They have welcomed my daughter into their home, and ditto for us and their children. Are we fools to walk away from such contentment and love?

HEAVY DECISION IN PENNSYLVANIA

DEAR HEAVY DECISION: If you and your friends are close for reasons other than geography and convenience, your relationship with them should be a lasting one. However, your daughter's education should come first, and if they are true friends, they will understand why you are making the move.

DEAR ABBY: As someone on a second marriage, may I point something out to your readers? An engagement is not marriage. People need to take a hard look at the person they are choosing to spend the rest of their lives with, and understand that they cannot change another person. Red flags should be addressed DURING THE ENGAGEMENT. That little annoyance will grow and has the potential to blossom into a huge issue.

Counseling can be wonderfully useful, but bear in mind it can take several tries to find a counselor who clicks with you. Take it from me, divorce is horrible and can cause damage that can never really be undone.

EXPERIENCED IN TENNESSEE

DEAR EXPERIENCED: You're right; problems don't solve themselves, and people in love don't always think rationally. However, I hope they will pay attention to your excellent advice because I couldn't have said it better myself.

To order "How to Write Letters for All Occasions," send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby – Letter Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. Shipping and handling are included in the price.

DEAR ABBY

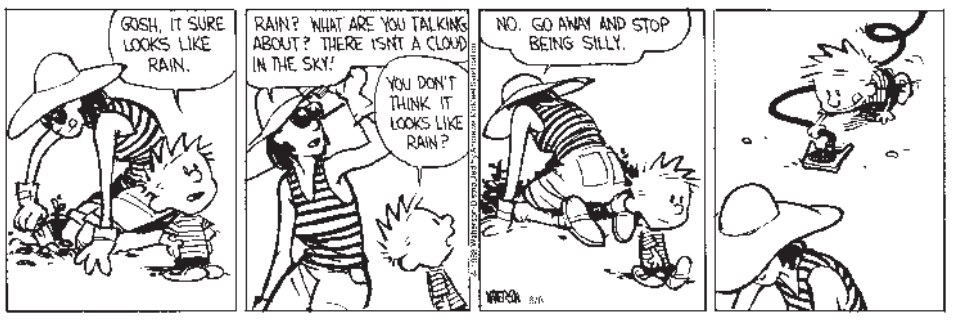
By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

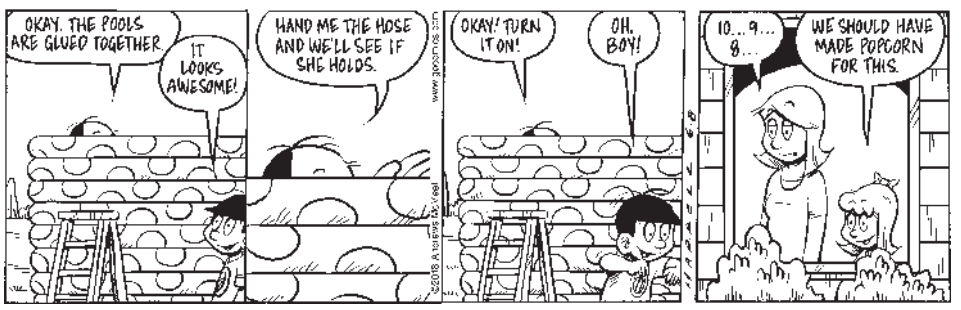

GOSH, IT SURE LOOKS LIKE RAIN.
RAIN? WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? THERE ISN'T A CLOUD IN THE SKY!
YOU DON'T THINK IT LOOKS LIKE RAIN?
NO. GO AWAY AND STOP BEING SILLY.

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

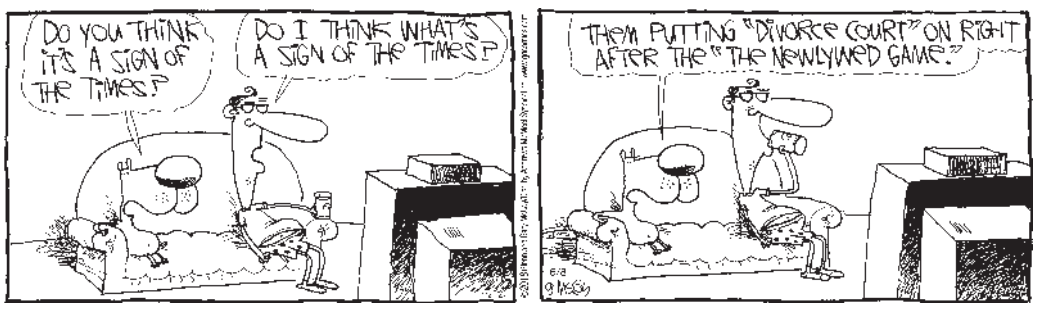
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


OKAY. THE POOLS ARE GLUED TOGETHER.
IT LOOKS AWESOME!
HAND ME THE HOSE AND WE'LL SEE IF SHE HOLDS.
OKAY! TURN IT ON!
OH, BOY!
10... 9... 8...
WE SHOULD HAVE MADE POPCORN FOR THIS.

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy


DO YOU THINK IT'S A SIGN OF THE TIMES?
DO I THINK WHAT'S A SIGN OF THE TIMES?
THEM PUTTING "DIVORCE COURT" ON RIGHT AFTER THE "THE NEWLYWED GAME."

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Nepal's neighbor
6 Honest politician
9 "Humbug!"
12 Worship
13 San Francisco's — Hill
14 Ms. Thurman
15 Small songbird
16 Talks turkey?
18 Paging device
20 Forearm bone
21 Up to
23 Business card no.
24 Secret rendezvous
25 Experts
27 Nasser's successor
29 Pope Francis, for one
31 "Yay!"
35 Penniless
37 Subject, usually
38 Happen again
41 Jungfrau, e.g.
43 Buddy
44 Actor Epps
45 Place in a crypt
47 Moves unsteadily
49 Susan Dey TV series
52 LAX info
53 In the style of
54 Sports setting
55 Costa — Sol
56 Wd. from Roget
57 Takes five

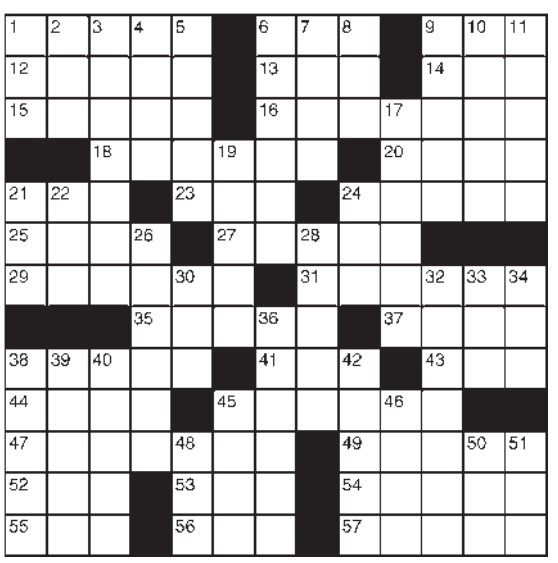
DOWN

1 Pitch
2 Altar promise
3 Drops the ball
4 Buffalo's lake
5 Doctrine
6 Actress Lansbury
7 Rude dude
8 Flow out
9 Browbeat
10 Church cries
11 Tears into
17 Richard of "Cleopatra"
19 Green sauce
21 Mahal preceder
22 Rink surface
24 Eastern "way"
26 Outlying area
28 Resided
30 Sale rack abbr.
32 Walks unsteadily
33 Couple's pronoun
34 Yoko of music
36 Wichita resident
38 Oared
39 Overact
40 Group of plotters
42 Of the Arctic
45 Slithery
46 Stallion's mate
48 "Viva — Vegas"
50 Hill dweller
51 Existed

Solution time: 25 mins.

G	A	L	A			M	U	G		S	T	A	Y
O	N	O	H			O	N	E		P	O	L	O
A	D	A	M			R	A	N		O	D	A	Y
D	Y	N	A	M	O		T	O	R	I	N	O	
			C	E	C			W	E	E			
A	L	F	A			C	A	_	L	S	F	O	R
R	O	G				A	P	E			D	R	A
F	O	R	⁻	K	N	O	X		P	R	E	Y	
			E	A	E			I	S	O			
A	T	H	E	N	S		C	O	O	P	E	R	
W	H	E	N			I	W	O		D	I	M	E
L	O	A	D			Z	E	N		L	A	I	D
S	U	D	S			E	T	S		E	F	⁻	S

Yesterday's answer 6-8



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955!** 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Maria Menounos, 40; Kanye West, 41; Julianna Margulies, 52; Keenen Ivory Wayans, 60.

Happy Birthday: Make travel plans and share your thoughts and feelings this year. Put yourself in situations that will help you learn more and allow you to be able to use your attributes to do something worthwhile. Personal gain through association with an organization, group or educational facility looks promising. Choose to express yourself through actions as well as explanations. Your numbers are 6, 17, 23, 28, 31, 34, 45.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* Keep emotions out of the workplace or when dealing with anyone who is in a position superior to your own. Listen and make adjustments based on what's best for you, but do so without making a fuss. Avoid making a physical change. ✪✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* Hold tight and be strategic. Making an abrupt move will lead to uncertainty. It is best to refrain from showing anger or getting involved in physical situations that could make you appear unstable or inconsistent. Focus on personal improvements. ✪✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* Make your voice heard. Stand up and be counted. Put your heart and soul into your beliefs, and challenge anyone who is reticent to hear you out. You can make a difference if you use intelligence, fair play and a friendly nudge. ✪✪✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* Refuse to let someone get to you. Listen and look for simple, effective ways to deal with any differences you have with others, or choose to do your own thing. Avoid an argument at all costs, and be willing to walk away. ✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* Stick to friends who are disciplined and unlikely to tempt you or lead you astray. A business meeting or trip can lead to information that will encourage you to form a partnership. Scrutinize the details before making a commitment. ✪✪✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* You may desire change, but before you get started, check out your options and head in a direction that will help to stabilize your world. Upsetting someone you love by doing something risky will not be worth it. ✪✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* Alter your living quarters or take a trip that offers a unique environment. A pick-me-up will help reduce stress and get you away from some of the trials and tribulations you face at home or at work. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* Put time and effort into something you love to do. A creative outlet will help build confidence as well as encourage you to find a way to make money. A romantic encounter will improve your day. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* Spend time fixing up your residence or making your way to a place that offers mental stimulation and positive challenges. Test your agility, physical stamina and ability to think fast and react quickly. Live in the moment. ✪✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* Don't react too quickly. Put space between you and someone you aren't getting along with. Take time to think matters through and consider the consequences should you take action prematurely. Positive actions will bring good results. ✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* Learn from past mistakes. Use your experience and intelligence to help you overcome anyone or anything that tempts you to do something you probably shouldn't. Use the past to help you bring about a better future. ✪✪✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* You'll learn a difficult lesson if you let someone get away with something that can disrupt your life. Personal changes should come from within and should be put into play because they are what you want and need, not for someone else's benefit. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are whimsical, interesting and playful. You are opportunistic and persuasive.

(To submit astrological questions to the "Dear Eugenia" column, visit Eugenialast.com, or join Eugenia on Twitter, Facebook and LinkedIn.)

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

				3				
		9	1		2	7		
8								4
	3		5		9		2	
5								8
	6		8		7		1	
6								2
		7	4		1	8		
				8				

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 6/08

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

6	2	5	1	3	8	7	9	4
9	1	3	7	4	6	8	2	5
4	7	8	2	5	9	6	3	1
2	8	6	3	1	7	4	5	9
1	5	7	4	9	2	3	6	8
3	4	9	6	8	5	1	7	2
7	9	2	8	6	4	5	1	3
8	6	1	5	2	3	9	4	7
5	3	4	9	7	1	2	8	6

Difficulty Level ★★★ 7/01

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the **WONDERWORD.**

'LORD OF THE FLIES' (NOVEL) **Solution: 14 letters**

L	A	R	E	F	I	C	T	I	O	N	L	S	S
S	S	F	E	K	K	R	E	G	O	R	I	E	D	T
B	O	E	R	D	W	C	H	I	E	F	S	N	Y	R
E	N	A	L	P	R	I	A	V	E	S	A	I	R	A
A	D	S	H	U	I	O	O	J	A	L	E	V	O	N
S	L	T	L	C	R	G	I	L	S	A	F	E	G	D
T	A	S	M	M	A	S	G	I	R	Ⓝ	L	R	E	E
H	U	N	T	E	R	S	L	Y	C	E	Ⓤ	I	L	D
C	I	R	E	E	T	A	A	H	C	L	M	Ⓕ	L	C
A	G	O	A	A	C	W	A	T	P	A	L	O	A	R
E	H	D	K	I	A	N	I	D	R	N	M	F	T	U
B	S	E	P	T	T	O	I	N	I	G	E	O	I	E
I	A	O	S	S	N	M	G	E	M	I	T	U	U	L
R	R	A	L	P	H	I	R	E	A	S	O	N	R	T
T	C	O	N	C	H	S	H	E	L	L	T	D	F	Y

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Airplane, Allegory, Beach, Beast, Castaway, Chants, Chaos, Chief, Conch, Crash, Cruelty, Dark, Election, Eric, Feasts, Feral, Fiction, Fire, Found, Fruit, Fun, Glasses, Govern, Hunters, Island, Jack, Life, Novel, Order, Piggy, Primal, Ralph, Read, Reason, Remote, Roger, Rules, Safe, Sam, Shell, Signal, Simon, Stake, Stranded, Time, Totem, Tribe, Tropical

Yesterday's Answer: Protect

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- Serves as the confidential judicial assistant to a justice or justices;
- Performs duties of a highly confidential nature requiring initiative, judgment and knowledge of court practice, policies and organization;
- Types up minutes or transcriptions;
- Types all letters, reports and orders/opinions rendered by the Court;
- Receives, sorts and files incoming mail, email, correspondence, or communications for the a justice for efficient retrieval and reference and routes all incoming mail expeditiously;
- Establishes and maintains files for use by a justice;
- Operates office machines, including typewriter, copier, adding machine, recording, transcribing and duplication machines, facsimile and computers;
- Arranges travel reservations and itineraries for justices and key staff members;
- Coordinates and arranges meeting and conference appointments for justices;
- Coordinates and assists justices with special projects, such as Law and the Freshman Legislator, Summer Pre-Law Program, Mock Trial, Law Week, AG's Cup, and others;
- May serve as the official timekeeper to keeps accurate records for all justices and staff;
- Responds to inquiries regarding job vacancies for law clerks;
- Updates the external website of the Judiciary as instructed by a justice;
- Serves as substitute Deputy Clerk of Court when assigned, including serving as courtroom clerk during Oral Arguments, and reviewing e-filing; and
- Performs other related duties as assigned by a justice.

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Find today's solution in classified section

Dynasty's doorstep: Durant, Warriors take 3-0 lead

CLEVELAND (AP)—Kevin Durant stood calmly near midcourt—and a very familiar spot—as teammates Stephen Curry and Draymond Green screamed at him in celebration.

Another momentous shot for Durant.

And soon, probably another NBA championship.

Durant scored a career playoff-high 43 points, draining a long 3-pointer in the final minute to cap his magnificent performance, and the Warriors beat LeBron James and the Cleveland Cavaliers 110-102 in Game 3 of the NBA Finals on Wednesday night to move within a victory of a sweep, their second straight title and third championship in four years.

The Warriors are on dynasty's doorstep.

Afterward, the defending champs could be heard loudly celebrating inside their locker room, perhaps a warmup for a bigger party to come.

The Cavaliers, meanwhile, are in a hole that might as well be 6 feet deep. Teams that have fallen behind 3-0 in the playoffs are 0-131.

It might be time for the guys from Northern California to order some champagne from Napa Valley.

With the Cavs down 103-100, Durant stood defiantly and almost motionless after dropping his 33-footer—just a few feet from where he made one in Game 3 last year —and effectively ended the fourth straight finals matchup between two teams who have gotten to know each other well since 2015.

After Durant scored, Curry and Green rushed to his side and the trio walked back toward Golden State's bench where the other Warriors were hugging and high-fiving.

As always Durant stayed cool.

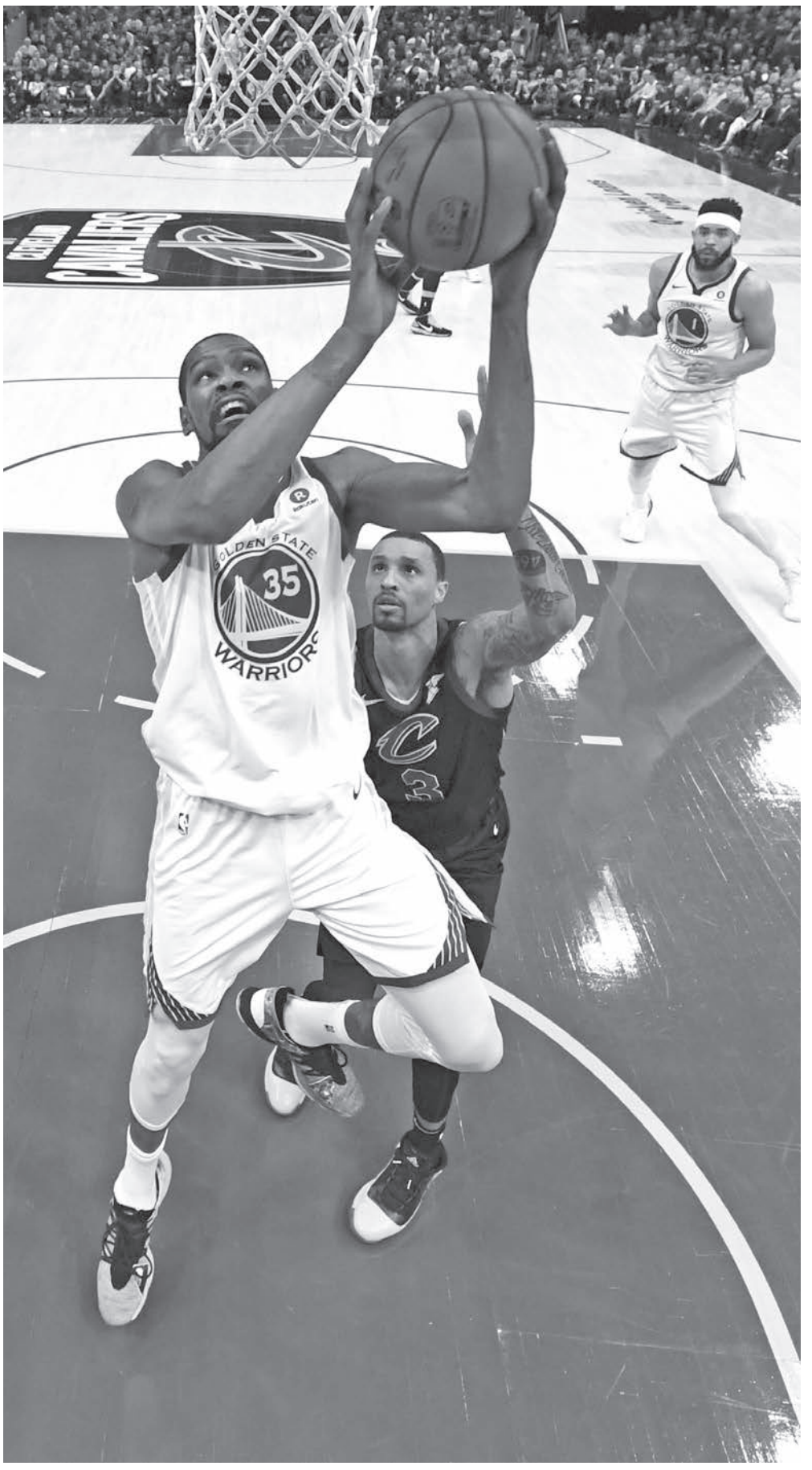
"I don't want to downplay anything, but I don't want to act like this is the end of the road," Durant said. "So just get back to work tomorrow and figure out a better game plan."

Durant said the similarity with last year's shot—a moment that helped define his first championship—didn't occur to him.

"No, not at all," he said. "I just took the shot."

There was nothing James or the Cavs could do but think about what might have been after losing two games that were within their reach.

"Tonight will be tough," said James, who scored 33 and rolled his right ankle in the first half. "Tomorrow I'll replay some plays and some moments and things of that nature. When I wake up Friday morning I'll be locked in on the game plan of what needs to be done to help our team win. That's just who I am."



AP

Golden State Warriors forward Kevin Durant (35) shoots in front of Cleveland Cavaliers guard George Hill (3) in the second half of Game 3 of the NBA Finals, Wednesday, June 6, 2018, in Cleveland. The Warriors defeated the Cavaliers 110-102 to take a 3-0 lead in the series.

Golden State will now have four chances to wrap up its title starting with Game 4 on Friday night. The Warriors are trying to join a select list of teams to win three championships in four years.

Kevin Love added 20 points for the Cavs, who have fallen into a hole in which no team has ever emerged. Cleveland came back from a 3-1 deficit to stun the Warriors in the 2016 finals, but that was when Durant was in Oklahoma City and James had a different supporting cast.

The Warriors won despite a 3-of-16 shooting performance from Curry, who did come up big down the stretch as the Cavs were trying to salvage their season.

Now Cleveland could be down to one final game with James, who recorded his 10th triple-double in the finals. The three-time champion can opt out of his $35.6 million contract and test free agency this summer, and it may be time for the 33-year-old to find a team capable of beating the Warriors.

These Cavs can't figure it out.

Durant, who tilted this rivalry toward the West Coast when he signed with the Warriors as a free agent before last season, was brilliant from the start. He helped offset a rough night for Curry, who made a finals-record nine 3-pointers in Game 2, but was just 1 of 10 from behind the arc and didn't score his second field goal until there were under three minutes left.

Curry's scoop shot put the Warriors up 98-97 and defensive specialist Andre Iguodala, who didn't play in Games 1 or 2 because of a knee injury, came up with a steal under the basket. Curry finally buried a 3 and after James matched him with a long shot, Iguodala drove the lane for a thundering dunk.

Moments later, Durant delivered his dagger to silence Cleveland's crowd.

"No, that wasn't the same shot," James said when asked to compare Durant's 3 to last year's. "The one he made tonight was about four or five feet behind the one he made last year. He's an assassin. That was one of those assassin plays right there."

Durant scored 24 in the first half, when the Warriors attempted 13 free throws to zero for the Cavs, a disparity that induced further wrath on the officials from Cleveland fans still stinging from the now infamous reversed call in Game 1.

James arrived at 6 p.m. dressed more casually—camouflage pants, purple hoodie, "Billionaire Boys Club" baseball cap—than on the road where he and the Cavs have been wearing suits during the postseason.

Everything is more relaxed and familiar at home for James and his teammates, who were counting on a return to their own noisy building, where they play better and shoot better, to get them back into the series.

The Warriors had other plans.

Cavs let chances slip away, again

CLEVELAND (AP)—They had their chances.

All of these events were downright ideal for the Cleveland Cavaliers: Stephen Curry's shooting game was awful for most of the night, Klay Thompson's wasn't much better, the Cavs led by as many as 13 in the first half and some nonproducers from the first two games of these NBA Finals were starting to finally give LeBron James the contributions he's craved.

And it still wasn't enough.

Another chance was wasted, and the season is now just about over.

Game 3 went down as a loss, and now the Cavaliers find themselves in the hole from which no NBA team has ever escaped. Golden State rallied to top Cleveland 110-102 on Wednesday night to take a 3-0 lead in the finals, with a chance to clinch their second straight championship Friday when this series resumes.

"It's definitely a tough loss and we had our chances," James said. "We have another opportunity on Friday to win on our home floor ... to extend the series. But we've got to come out and got to play 48 minutes."

James was fantastic, again: 33 points, 10 rebounds and 11 assists. The Cavaliers rolled the dice and put Rodney Hood into the series, and got 15 points from him. Kevin Love had 20 points and 13 rebounds and J.R. Smith finished with 13 points, finally making some shots.

They just couldn't stop Kevin Durant.

"Incredible, even by his standards," Love said.

With Curry and Thompson non-factors much of the game, combining for 21 points on 7 for 27 combined shooting, Durant finished with a playoff career-best 43 points.

"We got stagnant," Love said. "We were ultra-aggressive in that first half, myself included. But third quarters have kind of been our Achilles heel all year. ... I think that was mostly it."

Game 1 of this series will be remembered by how Cleveland let it get away; the botched rebound by Smith to be forever played as one of those quintessential wish-you-had-it-back moments. Game 3 of this series will probably be remembered by how the Cavaliers, even with Curry missing 13 of his first 14 shots, dominated stretches of the first half and went into the locker room only up by six.

They were asking for trouble.

They're now in trouble.

"I thought we played a good first half," Cavaliers coach Tyronn Lue said. "They're going to make runs. That's what this team does. To be up six at the half after being up 13 ... they're going to make runs. We understand that."

So this series is just about finished, or at least, that's what the history books say. The 3-0 deficit has, until now, been insurmountable in NBA playoff annals. Not even the most optimistic Cleveland fan could expect that to change in the coming days.

The next two days will be angst-laden for Cleveland, though hardly anyone should be fretting the outcome of this series. The mystery is gone, and Golden State -- which hasn't lost four consecutive games in the same season since 2013, back when Mark Jackson was coaching the Warriors instead of calling their games on ABC and ESPN -- needs only to avoid an apocalyptic collapse to win their third title in four years.

"That margin for error is so little, so thin against them, I think in some cases you have to be perfect," Love said.

But a lot of the angst won't be about the Warriors, it will be about James. Again.

Another "Summer of LeBron" could start as early as Friday night.

Sharapova ousted at French Open; Nadal in limbo

Colon matches Marichal with 243rd victory

ARLINGTON, Texas (AP)—Bartolo Colon worked five innings for his 243rd career victory, matching Hall of Fame pitcher Juan Marichal for the most by a player born in the Dominican Republic when the Texas Rangers beat the Oakland Athletics 8-2 on Wednesday night.

The 45-year-old Colon (3-3), in his fourth attempt at the milestone victory, got it against one of the 10 other major league teams he has pitched for since his big league debut in 1997 with Cleveland. He allowed Khris Davis' two-run homer and had one strikeout and two walks.

Yankees 3, Blue Jays 0, 13 innings

In Toronto, Aaron Judge hit a two-run homer to snap a scoreless tie in the 13th inning, Giancarlo Stanton went deep moments later and New York blanked Toronto for a two-game sweep.

Red Sox 7, Tigers 1

In Boston, Andrew Benintendi and Christian Vazquez each hit a solo homer and had an RBI double to back a strong start by Eduardo Rodriguez, carrying the Red Sox over the Detroit Tigers.

Angels 4, Royals 3

In Anaheim, Justin Upton homered for the third time in four games and the Los Angeles Angels defeated the Kansas City Royals after Shohei Ohtani was removed early because of a blister on his pitching hand.

Nationals 11, Rays 2

In Washington, Anthony Rendon had four hits and drove in three runs, Tanner Roark pitched six innings and the Nationals routed the Tampa Bay Rays to sweep the two-game series.

Orioles 1, Mets 0

In New York, Manny Machado had a sacrifice fly, Dylan Bundy was stellar over seven scoreless innings and the major league-worst Baltimore Orioles beat the Mets to sweep a two-game interleague series.

Indians 3, Brewers 1

In Cleveland, Carlos Carrasco struck out 10 and allowed one run in seven innings, and the Indians defeated the Milwaukee Brewers.

Padres 3, Braves 1

In San Diego, Matt Strahm and four relievers combined on a four-hitter and the Padres beat Atlanta to take two of three from the Braves.

Rockies 6, Reds 3

In Cincinnati, Ian Desmond hit a two-run homer, and Gerardo Parra and Tony Wolters each drove in a pair of runs as the bottom of Colorado's batting order powered the Rockies past the Reds.

Giants 5, Diamondbacks 4, 10 innings

In San Francisco, pinch-hitter Alen Hanson had a tying, two-run homer off Brad Boxberger with two outs in the ninth inning, Brandon Crawford singled home Andrew McCutchen in the 10th and the Giants beat the Arizona Diamondbacks for their sixth win in seven games.

PARIS (AP)—Garbine Muguruza's big strokes overwhelmed Maria Sharapova right from the start. Their French Open quarterfinal Wednesday was no contest at all, a 6-2, 6-1 one-way journey.

Simona Halep went from out-of-sorts to on-target against Angelique Kerber, scrambling to every ball and staying the course to erase an early deficit. Halep pointed her right index finger at her temple when she eventually completed a 6-7 (2), 6-3, 6-2 comeback to reach the semifinals, too.

"I never gave up. So I think that's why I won today," Halep said. "My head won it."

When the top-seeded Halep and No. 3 Muguruza meet Thursday, their contrasting styles will match up with plenty at stake. The winner earns a berth in the final at Roland Garros—plus the No. 1 ranking that currently belongs to Halep.

"I have just to stay strong, to try to make her uncomfortable on court," Halep said, "and to try to play my game."

The women got their matches done before rain arrived at Roland Garros, leaving the men's quarterfinals suspended in progress. That might very well have been a relief to 10-time champion Rafael Nadal, who was not at his best Wednesday and dropped a French Open set for the first time since 2015.

Nadal lost the opener 6-4 against 11th-seeded Diego Schwartzman but began to play better after a rain delay of just under an hour. Nadal was serving for the second set at 5-3, 30-15, when another shower came and action was halted for the day.

In the other men's quarterfinal, No. 3 Marin Cilic and No. 5 Juan Martin del Potro were at 5-all in a first-set tiebreaker when the matchup of past U.S. Open champions was stopped.

In addition to Halep vs. Muguruza, the other women's semifinal is the first at the French Open featuring two Americans in 16 years: No. 10 Sloane Stephens against No. 13 Madison Keys in a rematch of last year's U.S. Open final. Stephens won that one, as well as the only other match the longtime friends, Fed Cup and Olympic teammates have played against each other.

Muguruza had lost all three previous times she faced Sharapova, whose five Grand Slam titles include two at Roland Garros.

But they hadn't played since 2014, back before Muguruza was as confident and successful as she is these days.

Muguruza has not dropped a set in this year's tournament and dominated Sharapova with booming groundstrokes and superb returning that earned six breaks.

"When you're facing somebody that also has an aggressive style of game," Muguruza said about facing Sharapova, "I think it's about who takes the command, who takes the first opportunity."

Sharapova certainly didn't do that. She double-faulted three times in the opening game, part of her 27 unforced errors.

It took her 29 minutes just to gain a game, and by then she already trailed 4-0.

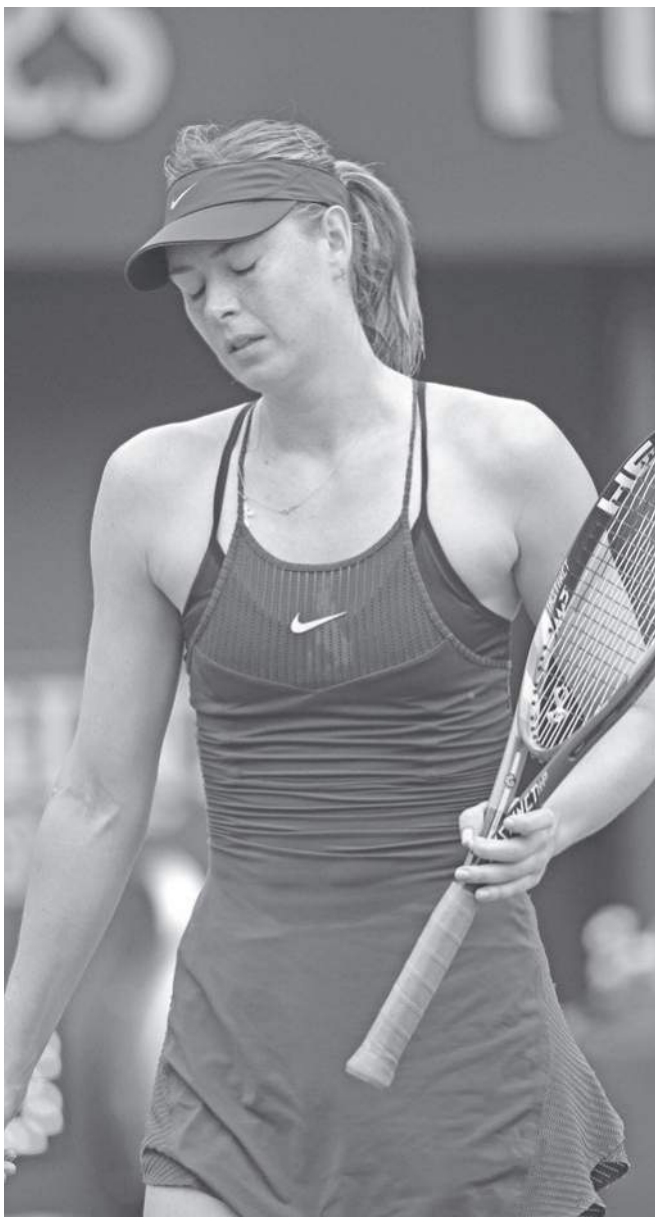
"She did a lot of things better than I did," Sharapova said.

Sharapova didn't play a point in the fourth round, because Serena Williams pulled out of their much-anticipated showdown with an injured chest muscle. Muguruza essentially got that round off, too: Her opponent, Lesia Tsurenko, quit with an injury after only two games.

"Kind of a weird day," Muguruza said.

Muguruza leads Halep 3-1 head-to-head, but this is their first Grand Slam matchup.

Here's another key category in which Muguruza has the upper hand: 2-0 in major championships. Muguruza won the French Open in 2016, then Wimbledon last year.



AP

Russia's Maria Sharapova reacts after missing a return against Spain's Garbine Muguruza during their quarterfinal match in the French Open tennis tournament at the Roland Garros stadium in Paris, France, Wednesday, June 6, 2018.

Missing in action at World Cup: A plethora of club standouts

ROME (AP)—The man who scored the winning goal in the last World Cup.

The best young player in the English Premier League.

A striker who scored a total of 53 goals in Serie A the last two seasons.

Mario Goetze, Leroy Sane and Mauro Icardi have achieved plenty in their careers. But they won't be achieving anything at the upcoming World Cup. Along with the likes of Alvaro Morata and Adrien Rabiot, they belong to a group of elite players left off their national team squads.

There are plenty more players who won't be traveling to Russia for a different reason—their teams didn't qualify.

"I'm going to go as far away as possible—where the time difference will force me to watch the least amount of matches possible," said defender Giorgio Chiellini, a member of four-time champion Italy, which failed to qualify for the first time in six decades.

What a difference four years can make.

Having scored the winning goal in Germany's 1-0 extra-time victory over Argentina in the 2014 World Cup final, Goetze seemed on top of the world.

But after a move back to Borussia Dortmund, an illness and a poor season resulted in coach Joachim Loew leaving Goetze out.

"It wasn't his best season. He wasn't able to show his incredible quality. Personally, I'm very sorry for him," Loew said.

Sane, who won the Premier League title with Manchester City and was voted young player of the year by the Professional Footballers' Association, was also left home by Loew.

Sane scored 10 goals and created another 15 in 32 appearances for City.

But Sane has only appeared 12 times for Germany and is yet to score for the national team.

PERSONIFIED

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warding—majority of them are even my friends in school. I always expressed that traveling to different countries alongside a team is a better experience than alone," Relucio said.

For her part, Maniacop considered being a student-athlete and competing a taxing, but fulfilling journey.

"It gets harder everyday. But besides all of the struggles, I had a great time with the team. I get to meet amazing people that I consider as family. Traveling was one of the best part of this journey, as we get to know each other more and meet people from other countries. Through my experiences in playing and traveling with the team made me a better person," said Maniacop, who is heading to California this fall to further her studies.

Salvosa, meanwhile, saw sports as an outlet.

"Through sports, I'm able to occupy myself productively. Through sports, I am able to focus better in all things that I do. I am forced to focus in school and assure that I stay on top of my game," said Salvosa, the MHS Student Council president and a runner-up in the 2018 Miss Marianas pageant.

SALVOSA

MANIACOP

Life lessons

Winning and getting awards may be rewarding to student-athletes, but Relucio and company value more the lessons they learned while competing and playing sports.

"In our team, we've developed a culture in which we uphold each other to certain standards and if we don't meet those standards, we call each other out on it. I was the captain of our under 19 national team and there were responsibilities that I had—like I was expected to take initiative. These things have helped me in the classroom as well. I've learned to set high standards for myself and to perform at that standard. Moreover, I brought my attitudes and experiences on the field into the classroom, such as being responsible and working in a group," Relucio said.

For Maniacop and Salvosa, they learned a lot about discipline and time management while playing and studying at the same time, while Relucio touted his commitment.

"In order to excel in school, I had to study. In order to excel in sports, I had to practice. It's the commitment to put in the time to get better that makes it all possible. I was always reminded that I am a student first and then an athlete. And that's where the discipline comes in, one should not outweigh the other," he said.

Hang in there

Facing pressure, physically and mentally, Maniacop once thought of quitting, but after a short while she found herself back at the pitch.

"There was a point that I felt like giving up and quitting the sport. I felt like it wasn't for me anymore and decided to just focus on my studies. I was also at the point where I wanted to maintain my grades, so last year around November I thought about quitting. I took a short break because of a back injury and it has taught me so many things that I could do. But after I was healed, I got a message from our team manager (Angie Ito), making me realize that soccer has been a big part of my life, so why would I quit now. I would like to thank her because I probably would have made the biggest mistake of my life and that was to stop playing the sport that I love," Maniacop said.

Thank you

For all the achievements they got in sports and school, Relucio, Maniacop, and Salvosa gave credit to the people around them.

"The true essence of my awards and achievements are my coaches, teachers, family, teammates, and friends. There are too many to mention, but without their support and mentoring, nothing would've been possible," said Relucio, who will pursue a degree in civil engineering at Seton Hall University in New Jersey.

Salvosa, also Seton-bound and will take the same course, vows to do her best in her next journey as a way to thank all who had her back.

"My thank you is not enough to pay back everyone who has supported my student-athlete career, however I will work harder to prove that all their efforts and support won't go to waste," said Salvosa, who also received a scholarship from the Saipan Chamber of Commerce. "I will definitely come back to give thanks and serve my community."

Maniacop said the support she received made her more determined to finish school and stay involved in sports.

"There are so many people I would like to thank, but most of all I would like to thank my parents and my siblings un California for always motivating me and supporting me in my studies and in soccer. Each day that I felt like giving up, I would always think on why and who I am doing this for and it was for them. It was never easy, but it was worth it," she said.

Congratulations

Northern Mariana Islands Football Association president Jerry Tan shared the honor and pride that parents of Salvosa, Relucio, and Maniacop felt after witnessing the student-athletes' triumphs.

"I would like to congratulate every graduating student for this school year. I am particularly happy to learn that several of our national team players graduated in high school with honors," he said.

"Study shows that playing sports actually helps one to become a better student as sports enhances one's organizational skills such as time management as well as discipline. I am very proud of them as while they train hard on the soccer pitch as a national player, they still maintain good grades throughout their school year. Again, a big congrats to all," the NMIFA head added.

PLAYOFF

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Wednesday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Aaron Ogumoro and Angelo Factor powered the CT Law NMI Rollers to the easy victory after combining for 21 points.

CT Law NMI Rollers started controlling the match in the second quarter, turning a 13-6 lead to a 23-13 advantage at the break. It kept the double-digit spread at the resumption of the game, as Ogumoro and Factor were still on target for the winning squad.

In other results, the 670 Sonics XVIII also walloped the Kagman Sparks, 80-38, for its seventh win.

The 670 Sonics XVIII held Kagman to two field goals in the opening quarter for an 18-5 lead and never looked back en route to the lopsided victory.

In the third game, the 670 Sonics XVI pulled off a 59-56 triumph over the Saipan Vegas Elite.

TENNIS

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ished in the Top 10 in the men's field.

"The question now is if we could put them together with other CNMI players off-island. If we could also bring in Colin Sinclair, we will have a chance in next year's Pacific Games in Samoa," Race added.

Sinclair, who is based in the mainland, has been playing in the ITF Pro Circuit since 2013, and this year suited up for the Pacific Oceania Davis Cup Team.

Thea Minor and Mikayla Lopez are the other off-island players. Minor played her last season at Henderson State University in the NCAA Division II this year. Lopez, on the other hand, is still with the New Mexico Military Institute—a Division I school under the National Junior College Athletics Association.

The six junior players who competed for the CNMI in the Nations Cup will remain in Fiji to work out at the International Tennis Federation/Oceania Tennis Federation training facility and compete in a series of tournaments there and in New Caledonia.

Meanwhile, Race will bring several other junior players to Guam this weekend for the 2018 North Pacific Regional Championships—a qualifier for the 2019 Pacific Oceania Junior Championships that will also take place in Fiji this summer.

The CNMI delegation to the Guam-hosted regionals is made up of Sam Ryu, Daniel Heo, Eugene Park, Malika Miyawaki, Maria Gregoire, Seung Jin Paik, Daniel Kang, Andy Kim, Isaac Heo, Coume Kaga, Anika Camacho, Hyejin Elliot, Anthony Gregoire, David Kwon, and Juncheol Hwang. They will play against the representatives of the host country, Palau, and the Federated States of Micronesia from June 11 to 16.

WORLD CUP PREVIEW

GROUP OF death

(Editor's Note: Saipan Tribune will run a series of stories leading up to the World Cup 2018 that will be held from June 14 to July 15 in Russia. Today, we are featuring teams in Group D)

MOSCOW (AP)—Having a Lionel Messi on its side does not guarantee Argentina an easy pass through the group stage, as the La Albiceleste will be up against Euro giant-killer Iceland, African powerhouse Nigeria, and the talented Croatia.

If an extra slot in Group D is offered even for free, it would be hard to find a taker, as the battle for the two spots to the Last 16 would not be a piece of cake.

ARGENTINA

A team featuring Lionel Messi can never be ignored, even though the 2014 runner-up barely made it to this World Cup.

But other key talents like Sergio Aguero and Gonzalo Iguain have been far from being in top form for Argentina. That is why little-known Boca Juniors striker Daria Benedetto has been deployed up front.

KEY PLAYER: *Messi* (Barcelona)—Doubted by fans, yet the five-time world player of the year delivered. Argentina would not be going to Russia without his goals and leadership. Turns 31 during a tournament that could yet crown his career.

COACH: *Jorge Sampaoli*—The 57-year-old Argentine is his country's third coach in less than a year. His team has not impressed so far, with only one win in four official matches. His team is the biggest question mark in the World Cup.

ICELAND

With just 330,000 people, Iceland is the smallest country ever at the World Cup.

The city of Moscow alone outnumbers Iceland's entire population 40 times over, but this is a team of giant-killers.

Last year's run to the Euro 2016 quarterfinals, knocking out England on a memorable night in Nice, showed the talent and determination in Iceland's team. Qualifying for the World Cup ahead of Croatia and Ukraine proved last year wasn't a one-off.

Expecting more success in Russia might be optimistic, but with Iceland's passionate fans and their "thunderclap" chant, nothing can be ruled out.

KEY PLAYER: *Aron Gunnarsson* (Cardiff City)—Gylfi Sigurdsson may be the main attacking threat, but bearded captain Gunnarsson inspires a gritty team.

COACH: *Heimir Hallgrimsson*—Not many teams are coached by a dentist, but Iceland isn't most teams. Took sole charge after co-coach Lars Lagerback left last year.

CROATIA

Croatia had to squeeze through the playoffs for the second straight World Cup despite having at its disposal a generation of players capable of making the difference. Led by playmaker Luka Modric alongside Mario Mandzukic, Ivan Rakitic and Ivan Perisic, Croatia is on paper a tough team to beat.

It needs the players to replicate their club form on the international stage at a major tournament.

KEY PLAYER: *Modric* (Real Madrid)—Croatia looks at Modric, its undisputable leader in hopes to emulate the third-place finish at the 1998 World Cup.

COACH: *Zlatko Dalic*—Took charge of a critical situation with one game remaining in the qualifying. Presided over a victory over Ukraine 2-0, then Croatia overcame Greece in the playoffs.

NIGERIA

The first team from Africa to qualify, and convincingly.

Won a group that contained current African champion Cameroon, former champion Zambia, and Algeria. A 4-0 victory over Cameroon emphasized when they get it right the Super Eagles can be a handful for any side. Argentina found that out last year when Nigeria came back from 2-0 down to win their friendly game in Russia, 4-2.

Nigeria has qualified for five of the last six World Cups.

KEY PLAYER: *John Obi Mikel* (Tianjin Teda, China) — While Nigeria has attacking talent aplenty with Alex Iwobi, Kelechi Iheanacho and Victor Moses, captain Mikel has provided crucial stability in central midfield.

COACH: *Gernot Rohr*—Like Mikel, Rohr has been a calming influence for Nigeria, which has changed coaches eight times since the last World Cup in Brazil.

FIFA All-TIME RANKINGS

TEAM	RANK	PTS	MP	W	D	L	GS	GA	AV. PTS	APPS
Argentina	4	140	77	42	14	21	131	84	1.8	16
Croatia	27	23	16	7	2	7	21	17	1.4	4
Nigeria	32	18	18	5	3	10	20	26	1	5

MP : Matches played **GA** : Goals against
GS : Goal scored **APPS** : World Cup appearances (excluding 2018)
Note : Iceland qualified to the World Cup only for the first time

GROUP C SCHEDULE

Argentina VS Iceland	(June 16, 2PM, Moscow)	
Croatia VS Nigeria	(June 17, 5AM, Kaliningrad)	
Argentina VS Croatia	(June 22, 4AM, Nizhny)	
Nigeria VS Iceland	(June 23, 1AM, Volgograd)	
Nigeria VS Argentina	(June 27, 4AM, St Petersburg)	
Iceland VS Croatia	(June 27, 4AM, Rostov-on-Don)	

FIFA WORLD CUP RUSSIA 2018

SOURCE: FIFA.COM (Schedule is based on Saipan Time)

Dynasty's doorstep: Durant, Warriors take 3-0 lead

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Saipan Tribune
Sports

Sharapova ousted at French Open; Nadal in limbo

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Student-athletes personified

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Three student-athletes have proven time and again that success in both sports and school may be hard to achieve, but possible.

Soccer players Ryan Relucio, Diana Maniacop, and Chloe Salvosa are proof you can have both worlds, as they graduated with honors at Marianas High School last month. Relucio was the Top 4 of their class and recipient of the Principal's Award, while Maniacop and Salvosa were ranked No. 6 and 7, respectively, with the latter also getting the Governor's Leadership Award.

During their high school years with MHS, Relucio, Maniacop, and Salvosa have been playing with their respective clubs in competitive leagues on island and have also suited up for the CNMI national teams that participated in off-island tournaments.

All three attested that juggling school and sports are challenging, but they have no regrets going through tough times, as benefits definitely outweighed drawbacks.

Worth the sacrifice

"Juggling sports and academics was never easy. I was forced to really organize my schedule so that I was able to attend all trainings, especially since we had trainings almost everyday of the week," said Relucio, who is now part of the CNMI national training pool preparing for an international tournament that will be held this year.

"I would always come home after trainings tired so instead of doing my homework right away, I would take a few hours to rest. With this routine, I would find myself sleeping late every night. Nevertheless, the positive side of being a student-athlete outweighs the negative. First of all, being part of the NMI National Team meant that we travelled off-island to compete and who doesn't like missing school to go off-island? The bond with my teammates is also very re-

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RELUCIO

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

The CT Law NMI Rollers and 670 Sonics XVI players battle for the rebound during an earlier game in the boys U18 division of the Diaz youth caging at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium. Both teams are already assured of slots in the playoffs.

Playoff cast in U18 division complete

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The stage is set for the playoff round in the boys U18 division of the 2018 Frank M. Diaz Memorial Youth League as the qualifiers have been determined and only the final positioning has yet to be decided.

Pennant champion Ol'Aces Real Deal (11-0) and the CT Law NMI Rollers (9-1) have secured the Top 2 spots, while rankings of the No. 3 to 8 teams will be known once results of last night's games and today's lone match are in. Pending results of the last two playing days, the 670 Sonics XVIII (7-3) is in third place, followed by the NSA Warriors I and 670 Sonics XVI, which finished the elimination round with similar 7-4 records, Saipan Vegas Elite (5-4), Saipan Vegas Extreme (6-5), and 670 Sonics XVII (5-6).

The Chinatown Titans (3-8), NSA Warriors II (2-8), Law NMI Rollers (1-10), and Kagman Sparks (0-9) are out of the single-elimination playoffs, which will start this Saturday with the following pairings: 1vs 8; 2 vs 7; 3 vs 6, and 4 vs 5. The semis matches will take place on Monday, while the finals and battle for third are set for Tuesday.

The CT Law NMI Rollers, which has one game left in the 12-team field, got win No. 9 after dominating Saipan Vegas Extreme, 62-41, in one of the three matches played last

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Tennis players can stand ground in Pacific, Mini Games

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The CNMI junior tennis players' notable performance in the Inaugural Nations Cup Pacific may make them contenders in the Pacific and Mini Games.

"The strong games that our players showed in Fiji meant we are capable of fielding a competitive team in the Pacific and Mini Games," CNMI coach Jeff Race said.

Carol Lee, Isabel Heras, and Conatsu Kaga won the women's division of the tournament held in Fiji early this week after downing Samoa in the finals, 2-1, while Robbie Schorr, Ken Song, and Jimin Woo fin-

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OCEANIA TENNIS FEDERATION

The CNMI's Carol Lee, standing fourth left, Isabel Heras, standing fifth left, and Conatsu Kaga, kneeling center, pose with other winners in the Inaugural Nations Cup Pacific during the closing ceremony last Tuesday in Fiji.